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Japan

Reportage on Watanabe Resignation

Steps Aside; Kono Named Acting

OW0604024493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0234 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Tuesday tapped his top aide Yohei Kono to stand in for Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, who has excused himself for health reasons for the third time in 10 months, government officials said.

Political sources said Watanabe may be replaced, perhaps later on Tuesday. Senior officials of the governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) also said Miyazawa will have to come to a decision on Watanabe's resignation. Miyazawa has asked for [passage indistinct].

Cabinet Approves Kono as 'Interim'

OW0604022293 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0100 GMT 6 Apr 93

[From the "NHK News" program]

[Text] At today's cabinet meeting, the government approved Chief Cabinet Secretary Kono as interim foreign minister to take over the tasks of Foreign Minister Watanabe, who is suffering from ill health. Foreign Minister Watanabe visited the United States in mid-February. But due to a cold and fatigue, he was hospitalized in Tokyo when he came home after having talks with U.S. officials, including President Clinton, and took time off from work. He returned to work on 6 March, commuting to the Foreign Ministry and parliament from the hospital.

He continued, however, to suffer from ill health. Watanabe called Prime Minister Miyazawa yesterday afternoon and asked him to name an acting foreign minister, saying he wanted to take time off for medical treatment.

Upon receiving the request, Prime Minister Miyazawa decided to name an interim foreign minister. His selection of Chief Cabinet Secretary as interim foreign minister was approved at today's cabinet meeting.

Prime Minister Miyazawa wants Foreign Minister Watanabe to devote himself to receiving medical treatment. The interim foreign minister will attend a Japan-Britain regular foreign ministerial meeting with Foreign Minister Hurd, scheduled for today, and other formalities.

A government source said that although Foreign Minister Watanabe could immediately return to work should he be released from hospital tomorrow, it is possible that Chief Cabinet Secretary Kono may act as foreign minister at the G-7 meeting. The source indicated that Kono's term as acting foreign minister will depend on the health of the Foreign Minister.

Watanabe Tenders Resignation

OW0604053893 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 300 GMT 6 Apr 93

[From the "NHK News" program]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Watanabe informed Prime Minister [PM] Miyazawa that he would like to resign as foreign minister and deputy prime minister. Upon receiving the request, Prime Minister Miyazawa started the process of selecting a successor. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Miyazawa wants to accept Foreign Minister Watanabe's resignation as early as this afternoon and has already started the search for a replacement. So far, Prime Minister Miyazawa has sounded out former Finance Minister Hata of the Liberal Democratic Party's [LDP] Hata faction on the possibility of assuming the position of foreign minister. All attention is now focused on Mr. Hata and whether or not he will accept the offer.

It seems Foreign Minister Watanabe decided to resign because he was not certain when he would be full recovered from his current bout of ill health, and because the diplomatic schedule ahead is quite busy: a G-7 meeting to discuss aid to Russia is due to start on 14 April in Tokyo. [passage omitted]

Although Watanabe will maintain his influence in the party as chairman of the Watanabe faction, a growing number of party members are beginning to feel that unless he regains full health he will find it difficult to obtain support if he runs in the LDP presidential election in November. As a result of this, the issue of Mr. Watanabe's candidacy for the presidency in relation to future political changes is likely to become a focal point.

Because of the foreign minister's resignation announcement, the Foreign Ministry, which was hoping to have Watanabe's strong leadership to promote Japanese diplomacy, plans to immediately review its organizational system.

Foreign Minister Watanabe has so far smoothly handled Diet deliberations and diplomatic schedules. On the issue of support for Russia, in particular, he has, as foreign minister of the host nation, prepared for the Tokyo summit due to start next week by coordinating the opinions of the seven industrialized nations. However, because an acting foreign minister has had to be named due to his ill health, the foreign minister decided to resign from his post in order to avoid being in the position of missing such an important moment in Japanese diplomacy, yet being the nation's top diplomat.

It now seems highly likely that a new foreign minister will act as chairman at the Tokyo summit on Russian aid, which is scheduled to start on 14 April.

However, as Japan will face considerable difficulties in coordinating the opinions of each country on measures to aid Russia, the Foreign Ministry plans an immediate reorganization.

Muto Agrees To Replace Watanabe

OW0604085793 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0800 GMT 6 Apr 93

[From the "NHK News" program]

[Text] Kabun Muto, former minister of International Trade and Industry [MITI] and a member of the Liberal Democratic Party's [LDP] Watanabe faction, has been nominated as the new foreign minister. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe has tendered his resignation as foreign minister because of illness.

[Begin Muto recording] In consideration of the sentiments of members of the faction, I have willingly decided to accept the offer.

Japan's diplomacy is facing a very difficult period, and I guess the duties of foreign minister will be very difficult. In particular, I will have to handle the G-7 ministerial talks. I have my own way of thinking, and yet, at this time, I will be replacing Mr. Watanabe. In short, I have to steadily follow Mr. Watanabe's steps to attain the fruits of Mr. Watanabe's diplomacy. I think this is how I should express my friendship for him. [end recording]

Mr. Watanabe told Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on 5 April that he would like to resign from the posts of deputy foreign minister and foreign minister because of ill health. At this morning's cabinet meeting, the prime minister announced his decision to let Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono serve as acting foreign minister as a stopgap measure, adding that he would begin to look for a permanent replacement for Mr. Watanabe.

At first, Mr. Miyazawa wanted to tap former Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata, head of the LDP's Hata faction. Mr. Miyazawa met with Mr. Hata before and after today's House of Representatives session. Mr. Hata ultimately turned down the prime minister's proposal, saying that he could not assume posts in the Miyazawa cabinet because he has taken on the task of encouraging the prime minister to adopt a positive attitude toward political reform. Prime Minister Miyazawa then decided to choose a member of the LDP's Watanabe faction to replace Mr. Watanabe. He decided to appoint Mr. Muto after consulting with the leaders of the Watanabe faction.

Prime Minister Miyazawa is scheduled to meet members of a Chinese delegation at around 1700, and later he is expected to summon Mr. Muto to the prime minister's official residence to officially propose his appointment as foreign minister. Mr. Muto has decided to accept the offer.

Miyazawa 'Formally' Appoints Mutu

OW0604114393 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 6 Apr 93

[From the "News 7" program]

[Excerpts] Kabun Muto, former minister of International Trade and Industry [MITI] and a member of the Liberal Democratic Party's [LDP] Watanabe faction, has been formally appointed the new foreign minister. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe had earlier tendered his resignation because of illness. [passage omitted]

Shortly before 1800, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa summoned four top LDP officials, including Secretary General Seiroku Kajiyama, to notify them of his decision to select Mr. Muto as Mr. Watanabe's replacement. Mr. Miyazawa then summoned Mr. Muto to formally propose his appointment as foreign minister, and Mr. Muto accepted the prime minister's offer. Mr. Muto's swearing-in ceremony is expected to be held tomorrow morning.

KYODO Profiles Muto

OW0604114993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1123 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—Newly appointed Foreign Minister Kabun Muto, 66, is renowned for his straight-forwardness when commenting on sensitive political issues on both the international and domestic front. In February last year, Muto made remarks critical of both U.S. auto workers and the "Big Three" U.S. automakers' management at a parliamentary committee, stirring up rage in the United States.

Muto told the House of Representatives Budget Committee, "American auto workers cannot throw themselves wholly into their work Mondays, as they played too much Saturdays and Sundays.

"On Fridays, they cannot put their hearts and souls into their work as they are preoccupied with their plans to start playing the next day." [passage indistinct] the LDP.

In 1987, he was ticked off by LDP executive officials Masayoshi Ito and Sosuke Uno for criticizing a proposed 3 percent consumption tax that was later introduced.

In 1991, Muto caused another domestic stir when he published his memoirs detailing trade talks with then U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, in which he said he told Baker that Japan "has to make a decision" regarding U.S. demands to open its rice market. He said in the book he and Baker "promised not to disclose" the contents of their talks on the occasion. Later the same year, Muto told a lecture meeting at Duke University in the U.S. he believes Japan should give foreign rice farmers "some 5 percent minimum access" to its rice market.

KYODO Analyzes Resignation

OW0604152093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1456 GMT 6 Apr 93

["News Analysis" by Takehiko Kajita]

[Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—Ailing Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe's resignation from his cabinet duties all but assures Kiichi Miyazawa of re-election this fall as president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and thus as prime minister of Japan.

Many members of the third-largest LDP faction led by the 69-year-old Watanabe tried to brush aside a rampant rumor that their leader's withdrawal means an end to his bid for the presidential post when Miyazawa's two-year term as party chief expires September 30.

But their protestations cannot dispel the widely held view among other members within the long-dominant conservative party that Watanabe, who had been considered the main candidate to succeed Miyazawa, is too sick to run for the LDP presidency. "Watanabe will not be in the presidential race this fall since he quit not only as foreign minister but also as deputy prime minister," said a senior leader of the LDP group led by Toshio Komoto, the smallest faction within the ruling party.

Political commentator Hirotada Asakawa echoed this view, saying, "Miyazawa will be re-elected unopposed if he can carry part of the political reform package over to the next Diet session for further deliberation." Although the package of four political reform bills is unlikely to be completely acted upon during the current Diet session that runs until June 20, "there would be no reason to oppose Miyazawa's continued hold on power" if he can carry a bill to revamp the election system over to the next sitting, Asakawa said.

Meanwhile, former Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata's refusal to accept Miyazawa's invitation to replace Watanabe is being taken as a clear indication that his reform-minded faction will eventually break away from the LDP, many LDP lawmakers said. Hata, the titular leader of the LDP grouping led in reality by former LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, turned down the cabinet portfolio, saying, "It would be impossible to carry out political reform if I became a cabinet minister."

In Japan, cabinet ministers are basically expected to refrain from factional activities.

A senior leader of the Hata-Ozawa faction said the rejection "demonstrated that our group gives the highest priority to political reform." But many say the group only showed once again the notorious "factional logic," a way of thinking which attaches more importance to factional affairs than to national challenges.

Asakawa called Miyazawa's call on Hata to serve as foreign minister "a crafty trick," aimed at driving the reformist group into a corner however Hata responded. "If Hata had accepted the offer, it would have meant his being held captive, so to speak. His faction would have then been characterized more and more by Ozawa (who enjoys a bad reputation for an autocratic style of political management)," he said.

His refusal to take up the foreign minister's post also served to draw public criticism to his penchant for factional logic at a critical time for Japan when seen in global perspective, Asakawa added.

Watanabe's resignation came when Japan is being expected to exert leadership in tackling numerous international problems, such as aid to an economically strapped Russia, ahead of the July 7-9 summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrialized nations.

"Hata should have turned down the offer at the outset. But the fact is he went to the prime minister's official residence. This indecisiveness did nothing for him and his faction," Asakawa said.

"Even if his faction breaks away from the LDP and forms a splinter party, it will have [words indistinct].

'Jumbo-Scale' Aid Program Replaces Former Plan

OW0604141793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1405 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—The government will provide over 100 billion dollars in financial assistance to needy nations under its new aid program covering the next five years, government sources said Tuesday [6 April]. The sources said the government has drawn out a framework of its financial assistance program, originally proposed by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa in January to recycle Japan's towering current account surplus that topped 110 billion dollars last year.

Miyazawa will outline the scheme when he meets U.S. President Bill Clinton on April 16 in Washington, while a detailed plan will be worked out before the July summit meeting in Tokyo of the world's wealthiest economies. The jumbo-scale program, which replaces the previous fund plan worth 65 billion dollars that was completed last year, features 75 billion dollars worth of Official Development Assistance (ODA) covering five years from 1993. It will also likely include lending by the governmental Export-Import Bank of Japan and trade insurance.

The former Soviet states, excluding Russia, and East European nations will join the list of countries qualified for the Japanese aid. Russia is excluded due to its uncertain political situation, which makes it difficult to extend long-term assistance, the sources said.

Miyazawa: China Can Attain 8-9 Percent Growth

OW0604114793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1037 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Tuesday the Chinese economy is brisk enough to achieve its growth target of 8 to 9 percent for the next three years. Miyazawa made the remarks in a meeting with China's former Vice Premier Gu Mu, who heads the Chinese delegation to Japan-U.S. economic talks to be held for three days from Wednesday in the western prefecture of Wakayama.

Miyazawa told Gu that China "can fulfill the target if economic steering is done with care," referring to a revised economic target Chinese Premier Li Peng announced in mid-March. The original estimate predicted an expansion of 6 percent.

Gu reportedly said the country will "seek sustainable, harmonious growth," although poor infrastructure and funds shortages may hamper efforts to attain the target.

Detained Chinese Defy Order To Go to Court

OW0504161993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1500 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Kagoshima, April 5 KYODO—Some 100 Chinese locked themselves in the basement of a local office of the Maritime Safety Agency on Monday night after riot police stormed the building and overpowered another 36 Chinese on the fifth floor, police said. Some 130 Chinese are among a group of 145 being detained for allegedly [words indistinct] colleagues being taken to the bus.

Under Japanese criminal procedure laws, if a court decides to give authorization, prosecutors can detain suspects for up to 20 days for questioning.

Police said they contacted the Chinese Consulate General in the city of Fukuoka and asked officials to come to Kagoshima, situated at the southern tip of Kyushu Island. Police want consulate officials to try to persuade the Chinese into leaving the basement and giving up their violent resistance.

Four Japanese crew members of the Nagato Maru, including skipper Takashi Abe, were arrested Saturday in connection with the suspected attempt to smuggle the Chinese into Japan.

Another Japanese man, Shigenao Cho, was arrested the same day in Kumamoto Prefecture on suspicion of being involved in the incident. Cho and Abe have subsequently been identified as members of a criminal syndicate in Hokkaido.

Philippine Former 'Comfort' Women File Suit

OW0504142393 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] On 2 April, 18 Philippine women filed a compensation suit with the Tokyo District Court against the Japanese Government, claiming they were forced into working as prostitutes for Japanese soldiers during the Pacific war. In the compensation suit, they maintained they were forced into serving as prostitutes for Japanese soldiers during the Pacific war and demanded the Japanese Government pay each of them 20 million yen in compensation, totaling 360 million yen in total.

Mrs. Henson [as heard], one of the 18 Philippine women, appealed tearfully to the Japanese Government to bear the responsibility while she is still alive.

Their compensation suit came after former Korean comfort women filed a compensation suit against the Japanese Government two years ago. The moves by former Korean comfort women to file the compensation suit against the Japanese Government have spread to the Philippines, thereby asking Japan anew to make a clean slate of wrongdoings committed by Japanese soldiers during the Pacific war.

Emperor Formally Greets Malaysian King

OW0504050493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0447 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 5 KYODO—Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko on Monday formally greeted the King of Malaysia, Sultan Azlan Shah and his Queen, Tuanka Bainun, in a welcoming ceremony at the Akasaka State Guesthouse. The first official visit to Japan by the king is in return for the 1991 visit to Malaysia by the emperor and empress.

Crown Prince Naruhito, Prince Akishino and his wife Princess Kiko, and Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa were also present at the welcoming ceremony.

The Malaysian king and queen later met the imperial family inside Tokyo's Imperial Palace, where the king congratulated the crown prince on his recent engagement to former diplomat Masako Owada.

Prince Akishino Leaves for Funeral in Spain

OW0604070493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0539 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—Prince Akishino and his wife Princess Kiko left for Spain on Tuesday to attend the funeral of the father of Spanish King Juan Carlos, the Imperial Household Agency said. The king's father, Don Juan de Borbon y Battenberg, died aged 79 last Thursday [1 April].

The cabinet approved the visit at a meeting Tuesday morning in view of the friendly relationship between the Japanese and Spanish royal families and the will of Emperor Akihito to send his second [passage indistinct]

Tokyo Considers Aid to Firms Hurt by High Yen

OW0604070393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0457 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—Aid to firms hurt by the yen's appreciation may be incorporated in the government's next pump-priming package, Japan's chief economic planner said Tuesday.

Hajime Funada, director general of the Economic Planning Agency, also said the program also is likely to include measures to allow consumers to benefit from the high yen. It is difficult to assess windfall exchange gains earned by electric power and gas utilities because of rising crude oil prices but importers of other goods will be urged to pass such gains on to consumers, he said.

Funada told reporters after a cabinet session Tuesday that the matter is under review by the government. He said the government's study also involves low-interest loans to local industries hit hard by the yen's appreciation. Funada expressed hope that the package will include import promotion measures.

Hayashi Expects Autumn Economic Recover

OW0604011893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0112 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi said Tuesday he expects Japan's economy to begin picking up in the autumn in the light of ballooning Tokyo stock prices, which usually serve as a leading indicator about six months ahead.

Hayashi, speaking at a regular press conference after the morning cabinet meeting, said, "There are still some uncertainties but conditions are headed for the better." Asked about the significance of announcing additional pump- priming measures [passage indistinct].

Survey: Economic Pessimism Increasing

OW0404111093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0809 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 4 KYODO—An unprecedented 44.3 percent of Japanese people believe the country is marching in the wrong direction, up 8.8 percentage points from the previous year, a Prime Minister's Office report said Sunday. The percentage eclipsed the 31.4 percent who said they thought Japan is moving on the right course, the report on public awareness of social affairs said.

The survey, the 23rd of its kind since 1969, was conducted last December and covered 10,000 people aged 20 or older, of whom 71.8 percent responded.

Many of those feeling gloomy about the country said they were worried about such problems as Japan's economic woes, the tight employment situation, bad working conditions and the state budget, an indication that the tottering economy is making people more pessimistic, the report said.

Because of the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mob scam, the number of people who say public opinion is not reflected in national politics leaped to a record high of 70.1 percent, up 9.1 percentage points from last year. That figure also was about six points higher than the previous peak posted in 1988 during the Recruit stock-for-favors scandal. [passage indistinct]

Agency To Ban Catch of Two Types of Dolphin

OW0504141793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1344 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Tokyo, April 5 KYODO—The fisheries agency decided Monday to ban fishermen from catching two types of dolphins, Pacific white-sided dolphins and common dolphins, agency officials said. The officials said the agency reached the decision as the resource condition of the two types of dolphins is not known.

In addition, an appreciable cut has been set for 1993 in the number of striped dolphins which the agency permits fishermen to catch in Japanese coastal waters, according to the officials. The agency set a ceiling on other types of dolphins as well.

The decisions were considered a reply to the recommendation adopted last year by the scientific committee of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) that the catch of striped dolphins be banned.

Since 1991, the agency has set a self-imposed ceiling on dolphin catches in Japanese coastal waters due to mounting international criticism against the nation's policy of allowing the [passage indistinct].

North Korea

Reaction to DPRK Treaty Withdrawal Continues

Ministry Denounces IAEA Resolution

SK0504225693 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Statement by DPRK Foreign Ministry released in Pyongyang on 5 April—read by announcer]

[Text] The United States and other hostile forces [chokdae seryokdul] recently threatened us with the nuclear inspection issue and applied pressure to us. Today they are attempting to undisguisedly interfere in our country's domestic affairs and even impose so-called sanctions by taking advantage of the United Nations.

At the Board of Governors meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] on 1 April, the United States and its follower forces finally adopted forcibly [kangabjoguro] a resolution for referring our so-called nuclear issue to the United Nations, defying strong opposition by delegations from our country and many other countries.

This is a naked hostile act [nogolchogin chokdae haengwi] of the United States and its follower forces to isolate [kolip] and crush [apsal] our Republic by all means.

Regarding the resolution of the IAEA's Board of Governors as an act of gravely infringing upon our nation's sovereignty and the dignity of the people, the DPRK Government resolutely rejects and condemns it.

The IAEA has no justification [myongbun] to bring our nuclear issue to the United Nations. The IAEA's Board of Governors meeting labeled us as a state not complying with the safeguards accord, claiming that we have not allowed the inspection of military objects [kunsa taesang]. This is preposterous.

The two objects on which the IAEA secretariat is enforcing an inspection are our military objects that have nothing to do with nuclear activity. Therefore, they are not the objects according to the safeguards accord.

Moreover, the IAEA secretariat made public the United States' satellite intelligence materials and based on them tried to inspect our military objects by claiming that they are nuclear-related facilities.

Espionage of other country through surveillance satellites and high-altitude reconnaissance planes is itself an infringement upon our country's sovereignty. Moreover, the attempt to reconfirm the intelligence materials through the IAEA is shameless.

The attempt of the IAEA secretariat for inspection based on such concocted materials means joining in realizing the United States' insidious aims to remove military facilities in our country and to disarm us.

Some circles and some member states of the IAEA secretariat intentionally ignored our just proposals and patient efforts to resolve problems through negotiations, and brought our issue to the United Nations.

From the first day of concluding the safeguards accord, our Republic not only sincerely implemented obligations according to the accord but also offered all conveniences and cooperation so that the IAEA secretariat and inspection members can satisfactorily fulfill their missions.

Even after we declared our withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], we revealed that we were ready to fulfill our obligations stipulated in the safeguards accord. In particular, even before the current meeting, we put forward a proposal for negotiations with the IAEA over the issue of fulfilling our obligations and made efforts to realize this.

However, our proposal for negotiations was regrettably rejected. This is indeed very abnormal [pijongsangchok] and unprecedented.

Such acts by the United States and the IAEA secretariat go totally counter to the regulations and rules of the IAEA and the safeguards accord.

Our opposition to the inspection of military objects cannot be the failure in fulfillment of the safeguards accord. We have never opposed in the past, even once, irregular [pijonggi] inspections according to the safeguard accord.

Some circles and some member states of the IAEA secretariat, including its director-general, kicked off a racket of hastily adopting a resolution to bring our nuclear issue to the United Nations. This was done in accordance with the United States' script prepared in advance. This is prompted by the insidious political aim of eradicating [malsalhada] our socialism.

Some circles in the IAEA secretariat, under the manipulation of the United States, systematically misused IAEA rules and regulations and the safeguards accord to label us as a state not complying with the safeguards accord.

This reality more clearly proved how our country's withdrawal from the NPT is just. International justice, fairness, and objectivity cannot be found, even a slight degree, from the act and remarks made up to now by the United States and some circles in the IAEA secretariat.

It was revealed that South Africa, in actuality, developed and produced nuclear weapons and Israel has nuclear weapons. The United States and the IAEA, however, have never made an issue of this nor have they brought their lawsuit to the United Nations.

Nevertheless, the IAEA brought our nuclear issue to the United Nations by staging noisy commotions over nonexistent nuclear suspicion, inconsistency [pulilchi], and so forth against our country.

We must seriously regard the double-dealing [yangmyonchogin] application of double standards [ijung kijun] by the United States and the IAEA.

Since the IAEA regulations and the Nuclear Safeguards Accord were enacted, tens of years have passed. However, there has not been a time when the regulations and treaties have been trampled underfoot and toyed with like today.

Considering such a fact, it is not our country that has not implemented the nuclear safeguard accord, but the United States and some officials of the IAEA secretariat which have created artificial stumbling blocks to our implementing the Nuclear Safeguards Accord.

It is none other than the United States that should be referred to the United Nations and that should receive sanctions by the international community. This is because the United States has violated the duties pursuant to a treaty as a NPT depository state and because it has constantly increased nuclear threats against the countries which do not possess nuclear weapons.

The so-called nuclear issue concerning us is, in essence, not the issue between our country and the IAEA but the issue between us and the United States. Therefore, this issue is not the issue which should be discussed at the United Nations but the issue which should be resolved through negotiations between us and the United States.

All facts show that the act—attempting to refer our nuclear issue to the United Nations by charging us with a so-called nonimplementation—is an illegal act which does not have validity or a legal ground.

Instead of discussing our nuclear issue, the United Nations should pay due attention to the fact that some officials of the IAEA secretariat are abusing regulations and the Nuclear Safeguards Accord and that the United States is increasing its nuclear threat against us. In addition, the United Nations should take a practical measure to check them.

By nature, the United Nations was our opponent in hostilities in the 1950's with its name stolen by the United States for its own use and, thus, committed a grave crime against the Korean people, and its abnormal past [pichongsangjok kwago] with our country still remains unsolved [ajik chongsanhaji mottan sangtaee itta].

If, today when the cold war has ended, the United Nations takes its past course again, it will invite unforeseen [yechuk halsuomnun] consequences and leave a new blot in the history of the United Nations.

There is no change in our Republic's antinuclear peace policy and its stand to realize denuclearization on the Korean peninsula. Also, our stand to implement the duties pursuant to the nuclear safeguards accord to the end and to solve problems arising in this regard through negotiations is consistent.

If the UN Security Council attempts to place pressure on us and impose collective sanctions against us by representing the will of a big power, we will have to take a corresponding effective self-defense measure [taeunghan hyogwajokin chawijok chochi] against it.

We do not talk an empty talk. The DPRK Government and the Korean people firmly believe that the governments and peoples of all countries which treasure peace and justice will extend support for and solidarity with our just cause to eliminate the nuclear threat on the Korean peninsula and to defend peace and security there.

[Dated] 5 April 1993, Pyongyang

Daily Warns of 'Countermeasures'

SK0604105593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1042 GMT 6 Apr 93

["Strong-arm Action of U.S. and International Reactionaries Will Meet Countermeasures"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA)—Should the United States and the international reactionaries try to take a strong-arm action, putting unreasonable pressure on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, they will meet strong countermeasures, warns NODONG SINMUN today.

We do not say empty words, the author of the article declares, and continues:

The U.S. imperialists are hatching a more dangerous plot, still harbouring an aggressive design to stifle the DPRK. Finding their "peaceful transition" strategy ineffective in Korea, they are attempting to attain their mean purpose with undisguised pressure, blockade and strong-arm action.

Though it is clear that they are responsible for the withdrawal of the DPRK from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], the U.S. ruling quarters have intensified pressure on the DPRK, trying to shove off the responsibility to it.

The United States egged some officials and some member nations of the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency on to charge the DPRK with its "noncompliance with the safeguards agreement" and bring the problem to the United Nations Security Council so that "international sanctions" may be taken against it.

It is now under discussion in the U.S. Government and military to take a military action if the DPRK failed to "cancel" the measure of withdrawing from the NPT and its preparations are being reportedly made in secrecy.

The aggression armed forces in and around South Korea and the Asia-Pacific region are now on an emergency alert. This is increasing the danger of war still further on the Korean peninsula.

Attempting to stifle the DPRK is like trying to sweep the sea with a broom.

Withdrawal 'Self-Defense' Step

SK0204134893 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0927 GMT 30 Mar 93

["Dialogue" between station correspondents Chong Song-kang and Yi In-chun: "Resolute Self-Defense Measure of Our Republic's Government"]

[Text] [Chong Song-kang] How are you? In a statement released on 12 March, our government declared its decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] as a self-defense measure to safeguard the nation's supreme interests and to cope with a grave situation in which the nation's security is being threatened. This self-defense measure is just, and I would like to talk about it.

[Yi In-chun] As everyone knows, at a time when the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are staging the adventurous Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise against us, the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] conspired to [ummojogin pangbob] adopt a resolution to enforce special inspections of military facilities [kunsa sisol] in the republic under the United States' manipulation.

This proved that the NPT, in a departure from its original mission, has been misused as a filthy tool to realize the U.S. war strategy for invading and dominating our republic and other Asian countries.

Because of antirepublic smear campaigns and slanderous maneuvers by the U.S. imperialists, the South Korean authorities, and some insidious circles in the IAEA, we can no longer fulfill the obligations stipulated in articles of the NPT. Under this condition, the republic's government was compelled to take the self-defense measure to withdraw from the NPT.

Our government's decision to withdraw from the NPT is a just step, reflecting the firm will and faith of all Korean people to safeguard our nation's dignity and sovereignty and to defend and protect socialism of our own style, which we obtained with blood, to the end. [passages indistinct]

[Chong] Our republic's participation in the NPT was aimed at removing the U.S. nuclear threat and realizing the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. Our participation was not designed to give up sovereignty nor was it to be subject to pressure or sanctions by the United States and its stooges.

[Yi] You are right. Our republic consistently maintained an antinuclear peace policy and sincerely fulfilled its obligations under the NPT. In addition, we received IAEA inspections on many occasions.

Throughout all of this, the honesty of the republic's peaceful nuclear policy has been proved. Nevertheless, the U.S. imperialist aggressors continually brought nuclear weapons into South Korea and deployed them there, instead of withdrawing them. Moreover, they intensified the nuclear threat against us by staging the Team Spirit nuclear military exercise.

Needless to say, the Team Spirit joint military exercise goes totally against the ideal and purpose of the NPT. Commotions about a nuclear threat waged by the United States, practically the world's greatest nuclear power, are indeed filthy. The purpose of such commotions is truly shameless.

Today, when our republic's honest nuclear policy has been completely proved, the U.S. imperialists kicked off an unprecedented racket about special inspection through the IAEA. This is a foolish maneuver to internationalize our nuclear issue [word indistinct] and to legalize the turning of this issue into collective sanctions against us.

[Chong] That is right. Some members of the IAEA Secretariat sided with the United States in this antirepublic nuclear commotion, forcing the IAEA to deviate completely from its ideals, authority, fairness, and principle of strict neutrality.

The resolution passed at the IAEA Board of Governors meeting calling for special inspections of our ordinary military bases [ilban kunsa kiji] based on the information provided by the United States conflicts with IAEA rules and the Nuclear Safeguards Accord, nor has there ever been a precedent for it. This is completely illegal, and nothing can justify it.

Under the special circumstances where our republic is divided and is under a constant threat of U.S. aggression and its nuclear threat, we cannot open up any of our military bases, which are directly connected to our country's security.

[Yi] That is right. If we allow them to conduct special inspections, our military bases will no doubt be opened up to the United States—our opponent in hostilities [uriwaui kyojon ilbang]. All the rules and regulations of the IAEA will have to be revised, and a tragic situation will develop where it will be customary for small countries to have to do whatever the superpower demands.

Our government's self-defensive measure in deciding to withdraw from the NPT was just, not only to safeguard the national sovereignty of our people and the security of the country but to oppose the superpower's tyranny and protect the fundamental demands and interests of the Third World countries aspiring for independence and the progressive mankind.

[Chong] Regarding our government's proper self-defensive measure, the United States, some IAEA members, and particularly Japanese publication and reporting media and some officials have expressed so-called concerns, stating that we should reconsider and revoke our decision to withdraw. This is ridiculous. The United States and some figures in Japan are engaged in rash and thoughtless action. They should act with discretion.

[Yi] The very people who disabled us from implementing the obligations pursuant to the NPT and forced us to withdraw from the treaty babble about reconsidering and revoking. This is beneath our notice logically and practically.

Joining or withdrawing from an international treaty is a matter of each country's sovereignty. It is the right of an independent sovereign state according to international law. Moreover, under these circumstances, in which the United States is attempting to infringe upon our nation's sovereignty and the supreme interests of our state through the NPT, we need not remain a member state of the NPT.

[Chong] The U.S. imperialists should not adhere to the same old practice unique to the Cold War era, but unconditionally stop the Team Spirit joint military exercise and immediately stop the maneuvers to impose special inspections through an insidious scheme by using the IAEA.

As we have repeatedly made clear, no brigandish logic or coercion works on our people. If the United States uses our self-defensive measure as a pretext to come up with a new pressure on us, we will take a proper countermeasure, no matter what it may be.

[Yi] We mean what we say. The enemies should not miscalculate the will and faith of our people who combined our strength in the wholehearted unity of the leader, the party, and the masses with the fate of socialism as an inseparable part of their destiny. We will never tolerate any act that threatens the sovereignty of the nation and the supreme interests of our state, the gains of socialism.

MAC Secretary Protests Team Spirit Invitation

SK0604131593 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1120 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Report on a letter dated 6 April from Senior Colonel Kim Yon-ki, secretary of the DPRK side to the Military Armistice Commission, to U.S. Army Colonel (Edward C. Odawood), U.S. secretary to the Military Armistice Commission]

[Text] Senior Colonel Kim Yon-ki, DPRK secretary to the Military Armistice Commission [MAC], sent a letter to U.S. Army Colonel (Edward C. Odawood), U.S. secretary to the MAC, on 6 April regarding the fact that the U.S. side recently committed actions to destroy [pagoe] the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission's [NNSC] neutrality and fairness and creating a crisis in this organization's existence. The following is the content of the letter:

I send this letter to you because your side recently invited Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission member states to the aggressive Team Spirit joint military exercise.

As you know, the neutrality and fairness of the NNSC, whose duty is to supervise and observe [kamdokkamsi] to ensure that reinforcements of military personnel and operational equipment are not introduced into Korea, are vital to its activities.

However, your side, which had systematically paralyzed the NNSC's functions, brought in massive forces of aggression from overseas to conduct the Team Spirit joint military exercise against our republic, the other signatory of the armistice agreement, and invited NNSC member states without hesitation. This action destroys the NNSC's neutrality and fairness.

In a letter that was sent to your side on 2 March, our side pointed out the unreasonableness and (?graveness) of this invitation and warned of consequences that may arise from this. However, instead of listening to this, your side invited NNSC member states to the Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise, even called a news conference, and claimed that they proved that the exercise was defensive. In this way, your side tried to conceal its aggressive nature. This shows that it is trying to use the NNSC as a political instrument for attaining its insidious aim.

As our side has repeatedly stressed at every opportunity, the current status of the organizations supervising the cease-fire is very serious. Your side forcibly expelled the Neutral Nations Inspection Team from South Korea in June 1956 and unilaterally abolished Sub-paragraph 13(?B) of the armistice agreement in June 1957. As a result, the NNSC has not been able to carry out its missions and duties stipulated in the arms reduction accord for almost 40 years.

Moreover, the functions of the organization supervising the cease-fire were completely paralyzed because your side replaced the senior member of the UN Forces with a general of the South Korean puppet armed forces in March 1991, ignoring the armistice agreement and custom.

Your side, however, far from restoring the organizations supervising the cease-fire, invited NNSC member states to the Team Spirit joint military exercises against the other signatory of the armistice agreement and used them to conceal the aggressive nature of the exercise, thus destroying this organization's neutrality and fairness. How should we view this?

This act by your side, in actuality, cannot be construed as other than a deliberate and premeditated act to create a crisis in the existence of the NNSC itself.

As a result of your side's systematic maneuvers of destruction, the NNSC has been reduced to a nominal organization that cannot make even the slightest contribution to easing tension and maintaining peace on the Korean peninsula.

Our side expresses deep concern about your side's destruction of the NNSC's neutrality and fairness and your using it for political ends, and strongly protests it.

If your side really wants to maintain the organization that supervises the cease-fire, it should refrain from abusing the NNSC by using it for political purposes and take substantive steps at the earliest possible date to restore the functions of the organizations supervising the cease-fire which are now in a state of paralysis due to the unjustifiable replacement of the senior member.

If your side fails to take necessary steps, our side will be compelled to take appropriate steps.

Daily Lauds ROK Students' Anti-U.S. Demonstrations

SK0604131893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1052 GMT 6 Apr 93

["Manifestation of Resentment at U.S. imperialists' Nuclear War Preparations"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA)—About 3,000 students under the preparatory committee for building "National Federation of General Student Councils," a successor to the "National Council of Student Representatives," held a protest in Seoul on April 3, denouncing the "special inspection" campaign of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges and strongly demanding a final stop to the "Team Spirit" war exercises. This is an eruption of the resolute will never to tolerate their war moves and arbitrariness, declares MINJU CHOSON today.

The news analyst says:

The U.S. imperialists are by no means justified in demanding "special inspection" of the DPRK, a non-nuclear state, and trying to impose "sanctions" on it while keeping huge nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea and conniving at the feverish promotion of nuclear arms development by the South Korean puppets and acceleration of nuclear armament by Japan.

It was entirely natural that under this situation the South Korean students should rise in a struggle denouncing the clamor for "special inspection" of the northern half and demanding a final stop to the "Team Spirit" war exercises and inspection of the U.S. nuclear bases in South Korea.

The United States must not stick to the outdated mode of thinking of the Cold War era but lend an ear to the demand of the times, declare a permanent stop to the "Team Spirit" joint military maneuvers posing the danger of nuclear war to the Korean peninsula, immediately give up the clamor for "special inspection" aimed at stifling the DPRK by wirepulling an international organisation and withdraw its troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea.

If the U.S. imperialists and their stooges persist in the "inspection" campaign and war moves against the DPRK, they will encounter stronger opposition and rejection from the South Korean people.

Daily Notes Cheju Uprising Anniversary

SK0304112193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1035 GMT 3 Apr 93

["Bloodshed on Cheju Island Must Be Paid For"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 3 (KCNA)—Papers here today in articles dedicated to the 45th anniversary of the popular uprising in the Cheju Island, South Korea, stress that the murderers must pay for the blood shed by the islanders.

The author of a NODONG SINMUN article says:

On April 3, 1948, Cheju islanders rose in a massive armed uprising against the schemings of the U.S. imperialists and the traitors to rig up a separate puppet government.

The popular uprising in the island was a patriotic anti-American resistance which dealt a telling blow to the U.S. imperialists' colonial enslavement policy in South Korea and their schemings to split the nation and a sacred national liberation struggle to achieve the reunification and independence of the country.

Forty-five years have passed since then. But the U.S. imperialists, occupying South Korea still now, ceaselessly commit never-to-be condoned crimes against the South Korean people after establishing the most ferocious colonial and military fascist rule over it.

The South Korean rulers, colonial servants of the United States, are begging for a permanent occupation of South Korea by the U.S. Forces and leaving South Korea to the U.S. imperialists as their nuclear forward base. They are now running about like a headless chicken to ignite a new war on the Korean peninsula and make all the fellow countrymen victims of big powers, playing the role of a shock brigade in the campaigns for a "special inspection" and "sanctions" against the North where fellow countrymen live.

The South Korean people will not stop their struggle till the colonial and military fascist rule of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges is terminated and will certainly build a new society aspired by the resistance fighters.

KCNA Describes Japan's 'Heinous Crimes'

SK0204064893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1552 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 1 (KCNA)—The Korean Academic Society of International Law published an indictment on March 31 exposing the Japanese imperialists' heinous crimes in having cruelly massacred millions of Koreans during their occupation of Korea (1905-1945) and calling upon the international community to exercise its influence on the Japanese Government to admit, repent of, apologize and make compensations for them.

According to the indictment, the Japanese imperialists committed never-to-be-condoned crimes against human ethics by massacring several million Koreans while occupying Korea for 41 years after forging the "Ulsa five-point treaty" of 1905 at the point of the bayonet, without the permission, signature and royal seal of Emperor Kojong of the feudal government of the Yi dynasty.

When they dissolved the Korean Army by force on August 1, 1907, they fired shells and bullets at Korean soldiers, killing 68 on the spot, injuring more than 100, and arresting 116 others.

They massacred more than 150,000 Korean patriots to stamp out the anti-Japanese righteous volunteers movement.

Even according to doctored figures released by the Japanese imperialists, the "punitive" operations conducted against the righteous volunteers numbered 2,852 cases in six years from the summer of 1906 to 1911, claiming 17,779 men dead, 3,706 wounded and 21,398 arrested.

The Japanese imperialists scorched the "punitive" areas and slaughtered common people promiscuously.

At the fifth trial of An Chung-kun, a Korean independence fighter, in a Japanese Imperialist Court in 1909, it was stated that more than 100,000 Koreans had been murdered by that time.

The Japanese imperialists reorganized the "residency general" into the "Korean Government General" in September 1910 and enforced a more hideous military rule.

Terauchi, the first "governor-general" of Korea, blared that "Koreans shall die if they fail to obey the colonial rule" by Japan.

The cases of arrest of Korean patriots by the Japanese imperialists numbered 52,000 in 1912 and 142,000 in 1918.

During the March first popular uprising in 1919 the Japanese imperialists murdered more than 100,000 Koreans by most bestial methods, such as gunfiring and stabbing, burned down villages, and put their jailbirds to such tortures as stripping them naked, hanging them from ceilings, their wrists bound in chain, and searing their flesh with a red-hot iron rod and plucking off toenails with pincers.

In 1919, the Japanese imperialists replaced the military rule by a "civilian government" and intensified repression of the Korean people and pillage by more cunning and heinous methods.

According to curtailed figures released by the authorities, 875,522 cases of arrest were reported in the five years from 1924, involving millions of people.

In October 1920 they massacred more than 30,000 Koreans after faking up the "Hunchun incident". The aggressors shot, beat and stabbed Koreans to death, buried them alive, burnt them to death. They did not hesitate even to put a man into the boiling water of a cooking pot, run a cord through his nose and stab him on the flank, rip open one's belly or stab him on the neck, gouge out one's eyes or skin them, crush a man's brains or dismember a man, drive a piece of iron into one's palm and cut off his limbs. Thus they murdered many Koreans by cruel methods of torture that would make even beasts blush with shame.

Their slaughter of Koreans was shocking when an earthquake broke out in the Kanto district, Japan, on September 1, 1923.

Rentaro Mizuno, the then home minister of Japan, issued an order across the country to murder Koreans, and the cabinet called an emergency meeting and set up a "martial law command". Upwards of 20,000 guiltless Koreans were massacred in a few days.

The Japanese imperialist cutthroats hanged Korean residents in Japan, tied their legs separately with straw ropes and pulled them in opposite directions, tearing them off, gouged out their eyeballs, cut off their noses and stabbed them on the belly.

In the period from April 1932 to March 1933 they showered shells and bullets in the Jiandao area in their 281 "punitive operations", killing over 40,000 Koreans and levelling tens of thousands of Koreans' houses with the ground.

They arrested, imprisoned, tortured and killed at random Koreans who turned out in the anti-Japanese patriotic movement within Korea by fabricating various "cases." They committed shuddering murder of Korean workers at construction sites.

In the 1931-1935 period they arrested and jailed 1,769 workers on charges of "involvement in the leftist labor union cases," and 4,121 Korean peasants by connecting them with a "leftist peasant association case" and other "cases."

More than 3,000 patriots were arrested in the "Hyesan case" faked up by the Japanese imperialists. Many of them were hanged, not a few were left crippled or died in prison.

An estimated 4,000 people were killed in the dam project of the pujongang power station, and a large number of workers out of the 1,500 died in hard toil in digging 25 tunnels at Kaegogae (Myongmungogae) in North Pyongan Province (now Chagang Province).

The Japanese imperialists' military fascist terrorist repression and murder of Koreans reached their height during the Pacific war.

They arrested, jailed and murdered 5,535 people after labelling them as "ideological offenders" in five years from 1940 to 1944.

The Koreans they took away by force in the 1939-1945 period under the name of "good offices of the government", "labour drafting", "patriotic corps", "volunteers corps", etc. numbered over 6 million.

The Japanese imperialists took 1 to 1.5 million people to Japan, Pacific islands and the South Seas area, 300,000 of whom died at coal mines and construction sites.

They also whisked away over 200,000 Korean women as "comfort women for the army," reducing them to sex slaves for the "imperial army."

Most of them died from physical abuses, or were cruelly murdered individually or en masse. Others lost their lives from epidemic and other diseases.

In the wartime they drafted 200,000 to 300,000 Korean young people as army civilian employees and nearly 232,000 young Koreans into the army (including "volunteers").

"General conditions of Koreans in Japan" (1949), data of the Japanese Public Security Investigation Agency, said the number of Korean soldiers killed or missing in wartime was 90,812, the army civilian employees killed or missing over 30,744, more than 121,556 all told.

The Japanese imperialists made many Koreans in Japan fall victim to the A-bomb dropped in Japan by the U.S. imperialists.

Out of nearly 100,000 Korean residents in Hiroshima there were 50,000 a-bomb victims and 30,000 deaths from bombing and in Nagasaki they respectively numbered 30,000 and 20,000.

According to indictments and statements of criminals at the Khabarovsk, Russia, trial of war criminals and the Shenyang special court, China, the Japanese imperialists murdered in cold blood 4,000 Koreans and Chinese by experiment of various germ weapons on their bodies from 1935 to August 1945.

The indictment says that the barbarities of the Japanese imperialists in massacring millions of Koreans during their occupation of Korea were an outrageous violation of international law.

In view of the provisions of international law, the heinous crimes in murdering millions of Koreans before and during the Pacific war were crimes against humanity; they were political and anti-human persecution based on imperialist colonial looting, national discrimination and disregard.

The Japanese Government brings forward its murderous laws as the "legal ground" for justifying the crimes of the Japanese imperialists in brutally massacring millions of Koreans while occupying Korea for 41 years. But all those "laws" are, without exception, a crude violation and complete contravention of the provisions of international law.

The Korean Academic Society of International Law strongly holds that no prescription must be applied to these crimes but they must be roundly condemned and brought under appropriate legal sanctions, whether they were committed before or during the Pacific war, according to the ground of international law and precedent, the heinous crimes against humanity committed by generals and officers of vicious types of the Japanese imperialist aggression army, the bosses of the "punitive corps," MP officers, police heads, the Noguchi and Mitsubishi Zaibatsu and other Japanese businesses in murdering millions of Koreans and, furthermore, massively robbing Koreans of public and private properties and squandering them, destroying a great many cities and villages of Korea indiscriminately.

The Japanese Government must officially admit the crimes against humanity committed by the Japanese imperialists in flagrant violation of provisions of international law, thoroughly probe their truth and make public the results and bear full responsibility for them.

It is a common task of progressive mankind for defence of the dignity of man and basic human rights at the present moment to put pressure upon the Japanese Government to sincerely admit, repent of, apologize and compensate for the crimes against humanity in carrying away 200,000 Korean women by force and making them sex slaves of the "imperial army," drafting more than six million Koreans and forcing them to slave labor and brutally massacring millions of Koreans.

The Korean Academic Society of International Law appeals to the United Nations human rights organisations, non-governmental organisations concerned with the human right problem, the International Investigation Committee on the Wartime Crimes of Old Japan, the International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea and other major international organisations, the political, public and press circles of Japan, the progressive people of the world, the governments, parliaments, political parties and organisations of all countries to lift up their voices and exercise necessary international influence to press Japan to officially admit, honestly repent of, apologize and compensate for the heinous crimes against humanity in massacring millions of Koreans in the past period.

SPA Delegation Departs for Conference in India

SK0504110493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1037 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 5 (KCNA)—A delegation of the DPRK parliamentary group led by Yi Mong-ho, secretary of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] and vice-chairman of the parliamentary group, left here today to participate in the 89th interparliamentary conference scheduled in India.

It was seen off at the airport by Yi Chun-sik, deputy director of the Secretariat of the SPA Standing Committee, and S.C. Gupta, charge d'affairs ad interim of the Indian Embassy here.

WPK, Indian Communist Party Group Issue Statement

SK0404092093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0833 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 4 (KCNA)—A joint statement of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) was published here on April 3.

The statement says that Harkishan Singh Surjeet, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Comunist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI (M)], visited the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from March 30 to April 3 at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The statement further says:

Talks were held between the two parties during the visit, at which the sides informed each other of the activities of their parties and exchanged views on the present situation and a number of issues of common concern.

The Workers' Party of Korea highly estimated and extended support and solidarity to the CPI (M) which has grown into a political force enjoying broad support of the Indian people through its relentless struggle in defence of the independence of the country and for social progress and for the political rights and vital interests of the working people, and is working energetically for the unity and solidarity of international communist movement based on a creative application of principles of Marxism-Leninism.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) highly appreciated the struggle of the Korean people in powerfully accelerating socialist construction under the banner of the chuche idea and the experience of the WPK in party building. The CPI (M) expressed full support to the declaration of a semi-war state to the whole country, all the people and the entire Army and the resolute decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, considering it to be well-justified self-defensive measures aimed to protect the supreme interests of the DPRK.

Both sides demanded that the fuss about "special inspection" and "sanctions" raised by the U.S. and other imperialist forces against the DPRK be discontinued at once.

Both sides expressed their will to powerfully push forward the socialist cause by tightening the bonds of internationalist solidarity and unity among the communist, workers' and other progressive parties of the world.

Both sides called on the peaceloving people of the world to remain vigilant against Japan's move to realize its wild dream of overseas expansion and nuclear armament. They condemned the continued blockade of Cuba by U.S. imperialism contravening the U.N. resolution.

Indian Group Leader News Conference

SK0504214093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1510 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 5 (KCNA)—"The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is an outstanding statesman without an equal," H.S. Surjeet, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), at a press conference here on April 2.

He said he could see at first hand while staying in Korea the great achievments made by the Korean people in the revolution and construction under the wise guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the Workers' Party of Korea.

He further said:

"Comrade Kim Il-song is making great contributions to the Korean revolution and the world revolution.

"Korea has splendidly built socialism under the guidance of the outstanding statesman. Thus it has been able to build a peculiar socialism of its style today.

"The Korean people are making every effort to defend socialism and the revolutionary gains attained by them in face of the desperate attempts of imperialists to destroy them.

"No one on earth can block the way of the Korean people or frighten them advancing confidently along the socialist road."

Referring to the achievements of socialist economic construction and popular policies in Korea, he said that the achievements made by the Korean people were a fruition of the wise guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

He said that the decisive measure taken recently by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in withdrawing from the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty was an expression of the strong will not to abandon its socialist achievements under any pressure of imperialism.

Vice President Continues Visit to South Asia

Meets Nepal's Prime Minister

SK0304061593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0446 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 3 (KCNA)—Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala told Vice-president Yi Chong-ok, a special envoy of the great leader President Kim Il-song, on March 30 that he was pleased with the independent measure taken recently by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea concerning the nuclear problem.

He expressed the hope that Korea will be reunified peacefully without foreign interference at an early date.

Meanwhile, president of the Nepali Congress Party Krishna Prasad Battaray met with the special envoy on March 28 when the latter paid a courtesy call on him.

Noting that the DPRK's measure to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty was a resolute step taken under the present situation, he said the Nepalese people would as ever pay deep concern to the Korean reunification question.

"The Nepalese people, proceeding from common views of the two governments and peoples and their friendly relations, will always support the Korean people in their struggle for achieving national reunification under the guidance of the great leader," he declared.

Meets Bangladesh's President

SK0504141593 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] On 1 April Bangladesh President Abdur Rahman Biswar met DPRK Vice President Comrade Yi Chong-ok, special envoy for the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

The special envoy conveyed greetings from the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to President Abdur Rahman Biswar. Expressing deep thanks, the president asked the special envoy to convey his warmest greetings to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

He emphasized that His Excellency President Kim Il-song is the greatest and most tested leader in the world. He said that His Excellency President Kim Il-song is the great leader who provided the people with great joy and happiness through outstanding leadership. Stating that the problems of food, clothing, shelter, education, and medical treatment have been completely solved in Korea, he highly assessed achievements made by Korea in building a new society. He said that he and his people are greatly encouraged by this.

He sincerely wished for Korea to be reunified at an early date and stressed that if Korea is reunified, it will be a most powerful country.

Meets Bangladesh Prime Minister

SK0504141293 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] On 3 April Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia met with DPRK Vice President Comrade Yi Chong-ok, the special envoy of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

The special envoy conveyed greetings from the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to Prime Minister Khalada Zia at a meeting. After expressing his deep gratitude, the prime minister asked the special envoy to convey his wholehearted greetings to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Saying that His Excellency the great leader President Kim Il-song has wisely led the Korean people in the struggle for the prosperity and development of the country, the prime minister added that the Bangladesh people admire his wise leadership. He pointed out that under the outstanding leadership of His Excellency the great leader President Kim Il-song, Korea will surely be reunified.

In conclusion, he wished His Excellency the great leader President Kim Il-song long life and good health and national prosperity and happiness for the people.

Workers Party Hosts Reception for Lao Party Group

SK0604053793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0507 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea arranged a reception for the visiting delegation of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Monday.

In his speech at the reception, Secretary of the C.C.[Central Committee], the WPK Hwang Chang-yop noted that the fraternal Lao people, closely rallied behind their party, were courageously advancing along the road of their own choice, invariably upholding the cause of their respected leader, the late Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan. "Our party and people highly estimate it," he said.

"The fraternal Lao people under the correct guidance of the party leadership headed by Comrade Chairman Ktamtay Siphandon and Comrade President Nouhak Phoumsavan are registering brilliant achievements in the vigorous efforts to fulfil the resolution of the fifth party congress on consolidating and devloping the people's democratic system and laying a solid foundation for gradually advancing toward socialism," he said. "We warmly hail them."

"Our party and people," he declared, "will further strengthen the trafitional friendship and solidarity between the two parties and peoples provided by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and respected Comrade Kaysone Phomvihane and will always advance hand in hand with the fraternal Lao people in the joint struggle against imperialism and for independence and socialism."

In his reply, head of the delegation Thongsing Thammavong, Politburo member of the C.C., the LPRP and chairman of the party's orgnizational committee, said he was happy he could witness through the visit the achievements made by the Korean people under the outstanding and wise leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea headed by the preat leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

"The Korean people have defended the gains of the revolution and turned their country into a socialist state with a developed economy, brilliant culture and strong defence capabilities," he noted.

The Lao party and government, he said, are happy that the friendly relations between the two parties, governments and peoples are strengthening and developing and that they have such a good friend as the Korean people.

The parties, governments and peoples of the two countries are supporting and cooperating with each other in the efforts for independence, sovereignty and prosperity, he noted, reaffirming that the Lao party, government and people will stand firm as ever by the Korean people fighting to realise their noble desire for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

First Pyongyang-Bangkok Flight Takes Off 5 Apr

SK0504110993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1039 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 5 (KCNA)—The first passenger plane took off in Pyongyang on April 5 after the opening of regular air services between Pyongyang and Bangkok.

Passengers going to Southeast Asia were on board the IL-62 of the Koryo Airlines.

The first airliner was seen off by officials of the Koryo Airlines.

DPRK Envoy Presents Credentials to Rwandan President

SK0304084393 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Pae Sok-Chun, new ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Rwanda, presented his credentials to Rwandan President Habyarimana Juvenal on 25 March. During the meeting, the ambassador conveyed greetings from the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to President Habyarimana Juvenal.

The president expressed deep gratitude and asked the ambassador to convey his heartfelt greetings to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The president said the Rwandan people have consistently supported the DPRK reunification policy elucidated by His Excellency the great leader President Kim Il-song and will actively continue to do so. He said that Rwanda will expand and develop its friendly and cooperative ties with the DPRK.

Kim Yong-sun Leaves Sweden for Denmark 30 Mar

SK0304033593 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] The Workers Party of Korea [WPK] delegation led by Comrade Kim Yong-sun, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and secretary of the party Central Committee, arrived in Copenhagen on 30 March to start its visit of Denmark. (Bijon Swide), vice chairman of the Denmark Common Cause Workers Party; other functionaries concerned; and our country's ambassador to Denmark welcomed the delegation.

After visiting Sweden, the delegation left Stockholm on 29 March. On this day Comrade Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, held talks with the Swedish Social Democratic Party's secretary in charge of international affairs.

Decree Proclaims Yi In-mo DPRK Hero

SK0604052493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0457 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA)—The Central People's Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on July 10, 1990, decided to award the title of DPRK hero to Yi In-mo, a former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army, in high estimation of his heroic feats.

The decree of the DPRK Central People's Committee which had been adopted then was opened to the public as Yi In-mo, the incarnation of faith and will, was repatriated to the DPRK on March 19 after he had been detained in South Korea for over 40 years.

The decree says the DPRK Central People's Committee decided to confer the title of DPRK Hero, the Gold-Star Medal and Order of National Flag First Class upon Comrade Yi In-mo, a former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army and unconverted long-term prisoner who had performed heroic feats as a war correspondent during the great fatherland liberation war and resolutely fought in defence of his revolutionary faith and will for 34 years of his indescribable prison life in South Korea.

KCNA Notes 13th Anniversary of Public Health Law

SK0504113693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1012 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 5 (KCNA)—The 5th of April this year is the memorable day marking the lapse of 13 years since the public health law came into force in Korea.

This law, adopted at the fourth session of the Sixth Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK (April 3, 1980), is the most revolutionary and popular law, the first of its kind in history.

The great leader President Kim Il-song has said:

"It is a source of great national pride and confidence for our people that they have a public health law for the first time in their history, a law which is rarely to be found in the world."

The DPRK public health law which consists of seven chapters and 49 articles stipulates the basic principles of health service, the complete and universal free medical care system, protection of health under the policy of preventive medicine, chuche-based medical science and technology, material supply to health service, the features of health workers as true servants of the people and health establishments and guidance and management of them.

President Kim Il-song saw to it that a universal free medical care system was brought into force throughout the northern half of Korea 40 odd years ago, in the difficult period of the Fatherland Liberation War. In April 1980 he formulated in the public health law the state measure to protect the lives of people and further promote the health of the working people through the development of health service of the country, thus consolidating it by law.

Under the warm loving care of President Kim Il-song whose noblest intention is to work for the people, believing in them as in heaven, the life expectancy at birth of people today rose more than 36 years as compared with the pre-liberation days, and the mortality dropped to one fifth. And the advanced section doctor system is in force.

All the people are granted equal medical benefits without discrimination by the complete and universal free medical care system of Korea now. They have no worry about the cost of preserving health such as charges for diagnosis, treatment, operation, doctor's visit, hospitalization and recuperation.

Preventive medicine is the main policy in Korea where huge additional benefits are granted through such levers as medical checkup of health, doctor's consultation and innoculation alone.

Medical service bases built in all parts of the country, such as people's hospitals and clinics in town and country, industrial establishments, fishing and forestry villages, maternity hospitals, dental preventive hospitals and children's hospitals, are responsible for health for all.

Scores of central pharmaceutical factories and thousands of local ones are ubiquitous in the country including Sunchon and Nanam, which fully meet the needs for medicaments.

The state has bent particular efforts on the development of Koryo medicine, the traditional medicine of the nation, to markedly increase the rate of treatment by Koryo methods in the treatment and preventive work.

Traditional medical research bases including the Koryo Academy of Medical Science have been built up well in the country. A solid basis has been laid for the production of Koryo medicaments.

The state has set up modern sanatoria at big hot springs and mineral spring resorts of high treatment value and at places with good climatic conditions, which are widely in use for the promotion of health of the working people.

Now the Korean people enjoy good health and longevity under the most ideal health system ever desired by mankind.

Segments of Economy Fulfill Quarterly Plans

SK0304123993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Pyongyang, April 3 (KCNA)—The first quarterly targets were hit in different domains of the national economy in Korea at a time when the people turned out in a drive to greet the 40th anniversary of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War (July 27) with significant results in production.

In coal industry, an energetic increased production drive was carried on from the beginning of the year, with the result that the monthly quotas were topped and the first quarterly plan was fulfilled at 104 percent.

The Anju, Sunchon and Kaechon district coal mining complexes, the nation's leading coal producers, increased production markedly.

The quarterly targets were beaten ahead of schedule by the Kim Chaek iron and steel complex, the Yongsong General Machine Bureau, the Kim Chong-tae locomotive complex and other main units of key industrial domains.

The overfulfillment of the quarterly plans was reported also by the General Bureau of Daily Necessities Industry, the General Bureau of Shoe-making Industry, the General Bureau of Land Transport and many other units.

The General Bureau of Land Transport topped its quarterly target by 34 percent and the General Bureau of Shoe-making Industry doubled the output of footwear in the first quarter of the year as against the same period last year.

KCNA Reviews 5 Apr NODONG SINMUN

SK0504061993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0527 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Review of NODONG SINMUN]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 5 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today edits solidarity messages which came to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il from foreign party leaders denouncing the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises of the United States and the South Korean authorities and supporting the self-defensive measure of the DPRK. According to the daily, Comrade Kim Chong-il extended thanks to the officials of the Tokchon City People's Hospital No. 2 who treated a People's Army officer with all sincerity and to the chairman of the primary Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea of the Nampo disabled soldiers shoemaking factory who has admirably fulfilled his duty.

The paper tells a story that the great leader President Kim Il-song taught anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters "Nostalgia", a song he sang thinking of his native place, Mangyongdae, to encourage them to harden their pledge to ring earlier the day of national liberation. It conveys what foreign political figures said after being granted an audience with President Kim Il-song and gives an account of activities conducted in different countries to celebrate the 15th of April. It editorially calls for further exalting the great revolutionary traits of the Korean society in which intense loyalty to the party and the leader, the spirit of devoted service and noble self-sacrificing trait for the society and collective, for the country and the revolution and human love are being displayed to the full. Appearing in the daily is a solidarity message to the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea from Khaled Bagdash, general secretary of the C.C., Communist Party of Syria, denouncing the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities.

Econews of the paper includes dispatchs from different sectors of the national economy including those about successes in the coal industrial and transport domains.

The paper informs the reading public that the Bangladeshi prime minister met with Vice-President Yi Chong-ok, a special envoy of President Kim Il-song, and the Mozambican president received the Korean agricultural technical cooperation team and that the Maltese president and the acting Cypriot president received Korean ambassadors.

It reports about a long-distance bombing exercise staged by the U.S. imperialists aiming to mount a surprise strike at the North.

It comes out with an article exposing the inhuman criminal act of the South Korean authorities in having made a cripple of Yi In-mo, a former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army, and an article disclosing the criminal activities of the intelligence bodies in South Korea.

Seen in the daily is a press statement issued by a spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry regarding the recent announcement of the South African president that nuclear weapons and facilities of his country were destroyed.

A commentary of the daily lashes out at the United States and some quarters of the secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency following it for applying a double standard in the implementation of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

It is reported in the paper that political parties and public organizations of different countries condemned the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises of the United States and the South Korean authorities and the IAEA's "resolution on special inspection" and voiced full support to the self-defensive measure of the DPRK.

World news of the paper includes reports that the president of the State of Palestine criticized Israel for laying obstacles in the way of the Middle East peace process and that an Iranian radio said Iran would not bow to U.S. pressure.

The daily deals with Japan's criminal acts of rushing headlong along the road of overseas aggression.

Reviews 3 Apr Pyongyang Press

SK0304071993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0536 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang April 3 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a photo-illustrated report that the great leader President Kim Il-song called on the general secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], Communist Party of India (Marxist) at the guest house and news that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from the general secretary. Papers cary a photo-accompanied report that President Kim Il-song received the secretary general of the international institute of the chuche idea and his party and news that President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il received gifts from them.

Printed in the press is a message of greetings set by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Lansana Conte, president and head of state of the Republic of Guinea, on the ninth anniversary of the proclamation of the second Republic in Guinea.

Given in NODONG SINMUN is an account of a meeting held to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the start of the study of President Kim Il-song at the Changdok school after coming back home, making the "one thousand-ri journey for learning" in his childhood with his father' idea of "Jiwon" (kaimin high) engrave on his mind.

Under the hedline "wealth of eternal value of our revolution, precious textbook of revolution" the daily dedictes articles to the first anniversary of the publication of Vols. 1 and 2 of the part 1—anti-Japanese revolution—of "with the century", reminiscences of President Kim Il-song.

Solidarity messages to Comrade Kim Chong-il from foreign parties and party leaders denouncing the "Team Spirit 93" joint military exercises of the United States and the South Korean authorities and supporting the DPRK Govrenment's statement on its withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty are carried in the paper.

Comrade Kim Chong-il extended thanks to researchers and their families, officials, party members and other working people who had set examples in deepening relations between the army and the people, say the press.

MINJU CHOSON deals with loving care shown by Comrade Kim Chong-il for disabled soldiers of the Sinchon disabled soldiers foodstuff factory in South Hwaghae Province.

Given in the press are new that ministries of coal, machine, local and shipbuilding industries and other units of the national economy fulfilled their quarterly plans and an account of a gathering of officias of central organs and working people in Pyongyang commemorting the tree-planting day April 6).

Papers report that the Nepalese prime minister met with Vice-President Yi Chong-ok, a special envoy of President Kim Il-song.

RODONG SINMUN infoms the leaders that the Mangyondae prize sports contests were opened.

The paper gives an account of a reception arranged by the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea for a delegaton of the October 8 revolutionary movement of Brazil.

Papers report that foreign at troupes and circus groups arrived in Pyonyang to participate in the 11th April Spring Friendship Art Festival and a Pyongyang-Bangkok regular air service is shortly to be opened.

NODONG SINMUN says that talks between delegations of the WPK and Danish political parties were held separately in Copenhagen.

The Korean ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Vietnam was appointed, according to the paper.

Papers convey voices of public circles and mass media of the world supporting the statement of the DPRK Government declaring its withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

NODONG SINMUN in a commentary denounces the U.S. defence secretary for prattling about a permanent presence of the U.S. forces in South Korea.

Papers come out with by-lined articles on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the April 3 uprising of Cheju islanders in South Korea, which stress that the blood shed by the valiant resistance fighters of Cheju island should be paid for dearly.

MINJU CHOSON in an article deals with the irregularities of high- ranking officials of South Korea which are recently being revealed through the "opening of property to public".

NODONG SINMUN serializes the indictment of the Korean Academic Society of International Law, the first installment of which was carried on April 1, exposing to the international community the Japanese imperialists' heinous crimes in having cruelly massacred millions of Koreans during their occupation of Korea.

Papers inform the readers that China clarified the stand of its government on the question of the country's reunification, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, called for national reconciliation and unity and a Thai diplomat exposed that Thai women are ill-treated in Japan as prostitutes.

Papers observe the 9th anniversary of the proclamation of the second Republic in Guinea.

Reviews 6 April Press

SK0604060393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0523 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Press Review]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a photo-illustrated report that the great leader President Kim Il-song received the delegation of the October 8 Revolutionary Movement of Brazil headed by its General Secretary Claudio Campos and a report that President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il were presented with gifts by the delegation.

Appearing in NODONG SINMUN are solidarity messages to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il from foreign party leaders denouncing the "Team Spirit 93" joint military exercises and supporting the statement of the DPRK Government on its withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT].

Seen in the press is the July 10, 1990, decree of the Central People's Committee of the DPRK on awarding the title of DPRK hero to Yi In-mo, a former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army and a long-term prisoner who refused to be converted in South Korea.

Thz press gives an account of the sojourn of Vice President Yi Chong-ok, a special envoy of President Kim Il-song, in Bangladesh.

An Indian paper introduced Kimilsungia, according to NODONG SINMUN. Conspicuous in the press is a statement of the DPRK Foreign Ministry denouncing the "resolution" on transferring the so-called "nuclear problem" of the DPRK to the United Nations which was adopted by force at a meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Working people in various domains of the national economy are making innovations in production and construction with the advent of the significant April holiday, according to the press.

MINJU CHOSON carries an article titled "If We Defend Socialism, We Will Win, But When We Abandon It, We Will Go To Ruin. This Is Immovable Faith of our People in Life".

The press observes the tree-planting day.

It is reported in the press that the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea hosted a reqeption for the delegation of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and foreign artistes gave performances before the 11th April Spring Friendship Art Festival opens.

Taking space in the press are commentaries of military analysts exposing the aggressive nature of the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises.

"Korean Peninsula [word indistinct] of War Is Increasing" is the title of an article of NODONG SINMUN.

Under the respective titles "No One Can Bring Korean People Singleheartedly United Bepind Party and Leader To Their Knees" and "No One Has The Right To Put Pressure On and Take Sanctions Against North Korea Which Adopted a Measure To Defend Its Sovereignty", NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON round up voices of the world public supporting the statement of the DPRK Government.

Seen in the press is "Let Us Defend Socialism From Abuses", an article carried in the Russian paper PATRIOT.

NODONG SINMUN reports that the chairman of the Danish Workers' Party, Common Cause and the honorary chairman of the Communist Party of Greece lauded the Korean socialist system.

It is reported in the paper that the Iranian president rejected false reports of the West that Iran is trying to introduce nuclear and chemical weapons and the head of the Chinese delegation clarified China [word indistinct] on human rights at an Asian regional [word indistinct] meeting for the World Conference on Human Rights. In an article titled "Unreasonable Clamour for 'Political Leadership'", MINJU CHOSON denounces Japan for scheming to become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.

South Korea

Reaction to DPRK Treaty Withdrawal Continues

Kim: Prepare for DPRK 'Provocation'

SK0604031793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0302 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP)—South Korean President Kim Yong-sam ordered his cabinet ministers concerned with national security affairs Tuesday to prepare for possible provocation by North Korea against the South. Kim's instruction came at a ministerial meeting he convened at Chongwadae [presidential offices] to discuss inter-Korean relations and recent developments in North Korea at the time when the United Nations Security Council is to take up the North Korean nuclear issue.

"The government should provide thorough measures against any provocation by North Korea so that the people can continue to participate in the construction of a new Korea," Kim was quoted by his spokesman, Yi Kyong-chae, as saying.

The president expressed his concern over possible North Korean provocation while refusing to comply with a justifiable demand of the international community on the nuclear problem, according to the spokesman. North Korea's nuclear arms development plan should be stopped at any cost, Kim declared.

Inter-Korean relations, including economic cooperation, could improve only when North Korea reversed its decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and accept inspections by not only the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) but also simultaneous inspections with South Korea, Kim told the meeting.

Kim also told the ministers to do the utmost in their diplomatic efforts to strengthen cooperative ties with other major concerned nations in order to help resolve the North Korean nuclear issue peacefully. The president expressed his concern that the North Korean issue had to be referred to the U.N. Security Council and that North Korea might be further isolated from the international community as a result, Yi said. Asked whether tension was being heightened in North Korea as the U.N. Security Council is about to take up the nuclear problem, the spokesman said the transfer of the issue to the U.N. Security Council from the IAEA itself was a new development.

One government official said there was no sign of North Korea taking an offensive posture in preparation for war, but that South Korea nevertheless had to prepare for any developments as the U.N. Security Council is to take up the question, he added, asking for anonymity. Earlier, deputy prime minister and head of the National Unification Board Han Wan-sang, Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu and National Security Planning Director Kim Tok reported on recent developments in North Korea and inter-Korean relations.

The meeting decided that the government will concentrate on persuading North Korea to retract its decision to withdraw from the NPT before the international community imposes sanctions against it, sources said. But if North Korea continued to ignore its international obligations and proceed with its nuclear weapons plan, there would be no choice for the government but to go along with the world community to impose sanctions against North Korea, they said.

With regard to the North Korean Foreign Ministry statement on Monday that North Korea would take "self-defensive measures," the government had decided to work out countermeasures against any provocation in order to keep peace and stability on the Korean peninsula, the sources said.

The government is to convene another meeting of ministers concerned with unification after watching the fifth conference of the ninth Supreme People's Assembly, to be held in Pyongyang on Wednesday.

Further on Preparations

SK0604083793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0807 GMT 6 Apr 93

["News analysis" by Cho Se-hyon]

[Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP)—South Korean President Kim Yong-sam called a meeting of his cabinet ministers concerned with national security Tuesday because of "unusual moves" said to have been detected in North Korea.

The nature of the moves was not immediately clear, but there has been suspicion that Pyongyang announced its decision to quit the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty [NPT] and refuse inspections as part of a "strong measure" in connection with the transfer of power from Kim Il-song to his son and heir, Kim Chong-il, according to some North Korea watchers.

The U.N. Security Council is about to take up the North Korean nuclear issue, and the worst-case scenario is for North Korea to respond to mounting international pressure by walking out of the United Nations and declaring its intention to develop nuclear weapons. It could be the worst possible development for South Korea, some analysts believe.

In this connection, Kim ordered his ministers Tuesday to prepare for any provocation by North Korea after expressing his concern that there was such a possibility. North Korea, in a Foreign Ministry statement issued Monday, threatened to take a "self-defensive measure" if the United Nations imposed sanctions or used pressure against it. One ranking official at Chongwadae said he could not disclose details of a possible North Korean provocation at this time but that the president called Tuesday's meeting in order to work out thorough measures so that South Korea could meet "a provocative North Korean move."

Even if North Korea does not publicly declare its intention to develop nuclear weapons, it would be tantamount to such an announcement if it did not retract its decision to leave the NPT by June 12, the analysts say. To prepare for the worst instance, the South Korean Government is working out ways to put the maximum pressure on North Korea in cooperation with the international community.

Measures could include requests to China to suspend its crude oil supply to North Korea. It would also seek

Japanese cooperation in efforts to stop the flow of money from a pro-Pyongyang organization in Japan to North Korea, sources say. This kind of strong South Korean stance was underscored by Kim at Tuesday's meeting when he pointed out a remote chance, but nevertheless possible, of a North Korean provocation and ordered preparations for it, sources at Chongwadae say.

A high-placed government official was more direct in expressing the Seoul government's resolution and said: "Those who have criticized our government for taking an appeasement policy toward North Korea were wrong."

But the government still adheres to its policy of first trying to persuade Pyongyang to remain in the NPT and accept outside inspections before going about any sanctions. If the international community hastily imposes sanctions against North Korea, the government believes, it could very well invite a reckless action by Pyongyang, sources say.

Sanctions could only help Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il, who would be happy to grab the opportunity to divert attention from domestic affairs while they are carrying out the transfer of power and solidifying the ground for maintenance of their dynastic rule.

In other words, the South Korean Government will continue, for the time being, to use persuasion with North Korea to prevent it from resorting to "self-destructive action." But the focus of the government's efforts will shift to "pressure" from "persuasion" if Pyongyang does not reverse its decision on the NPT and accept outside inspection by a certain point, which is expected to come in early June, the sources say.

In the meantime, President Kim instructed his ministers to exert their utmost diplomatic efforts to work with the United States, Japan and China for a peaceful solution to the problem. Kim ruled out any possibility of improving inter-Korean relations, including economic cooperation, unless, or until, the nuclear issue is resolved peacefully.

WPK Secretary on DPRK-IAEA Talks

SK0604014293 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 6 Apr 93 p 2

[By report Kim Hyo-sun in Tokyo]

[Text] MAINICHI SHIMBUN reported on 5 April that Choe Tae-pok, secretary of the North Korean Workers Party of Korea [WPK] and director of international affairs, in a 4 April meeting with Professor Maeda Yasuhiro of North Kyushu University said "there is enough time to discuss the nuclear issue by 20 June, the day when DPRK's decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty is confirmed," and that "the nuclear inspection issue can be resolved when the International Atomic Energy Agency and the DPRK continue abundant talks."

The paper also reported that he stressed the issues of North-South dialogue, improvement of relations between North Korea and the United States, and relations between North Korea and Japan are completely different from the special inspection issue, and said "there will be no changes in the DPRK's policy of observing the joint declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula."

Ministry Welcomes NPT Return Call

SK0604064793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0638 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP)—South Korea welcomed a call by Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) representatives for North Korea to return to the treaty Tuesday. "We welcome and fully support the statement of April 1," a Foreign Ministry official said. The statement was issued by the depository governments of the treaty—Russia, Britain and the United States.

"The statement reflects a grave concern of the international community over North Korea's announced withdrawal and non-compliance with its safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)," the official said. "We urge North Korea to accept the recommendations presented in good faith by the depository governments and to join the international community as a responsible member at the earliest possible date."

UNSC To Hear IAEA Report

SK0604010593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0056 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] United Nations, April 6 (YONHAP)—The United Nations Security Council has decided to receive a report from Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), on the North Korean nuclear issue on Tuesday afternoon (EST). The decision was made at an unofficial meeting on Monday afternoon in which China persisted in its opposing U.N. sanctions against North Korea but raised no objection to listening to the report from Blix, sources said.

Blix was scheduled to arrive in New York on Monday night. His report to the Security Council means that the council has "formalized" the North Korean nuclear issue. The council is now expected to take steps toward adopting a resolution.

A diplomatic source said he understood that the resolution had already been worked out by four of the permanent members, the United States, Britain, France and Russia, excluding China. But there is a possibility that a vote on the resolution would be delayed until next week to have a chance to narrow differences of opinion between them and China, the source said, asking that his name be withheld.

Daily on PRC Role

SK0304015093 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 3 Apr 93 p 6

[Editorial: "UN and Nuclear Issue"]

[Text] The United Nations Security Council at last has taken the crucial business of handling the North Korean nuclear issue over from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which adopted a resolution by vote Thursday, expressing concern with the North's noncompliance with its obligations under the safeguards agreement.

For the IAEA that had hitherto tried to solve the issue through diplomatic efforts, sending the case to the U.N. was inevitable and most proper in light of the few immediate prospects of Pyongyang changing its intractable stance.

World concern from now on will be focused on how the world body ventures to have North Korea give up its defiance and accept the demand of the IAEA and South Korea's allies to retract its pullout from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Undeniably, the North Korean nuclear problem will be dealt with more seriously by the Security Council than it was by the IAEA in ways disfavoring Pyongyang. It will be placed under stronger pressure to allow inspection of its two sites in Yongbyon, suspected to be a nuclear complex.

The most probable initial step the Council is likely to take is diplomatic or economic sanctions under Chapter Seven of the U.N. Charter which permits forcible measures against states threatening world peace and security.

At this moment, we wish to express our earnest hope that China, which voted against the IAEA resolution and still rejects any moves to punish North Korea will not one-sidedly support its old ally's nuclear bid. The conception of foe or friend has disappeared and thus is no longer applicable to Seoul and Beijing whose relations grow closer, more mature, and more beneficial in substantial terms day by day.

A noteworthy point is the fact that South Korea and China strongly back denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

U.S. Senator's Remarks Noted

SK0604025693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0219 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Washington, April 6 (YONHAP)—Sen. Charles Robb, chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs, and four others submitted a resolution to the Senate late last week calling on the United States and the international community to compel North Korea to remain in the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), YONHAP learned Monday. Robb specifically suggested sending a U.N. envoy to persuade North Korea to stay in the NPT and at the same time coordinate plausible sanctions.

The resolution, cosponsored by Senators Joseph Biden, Jesse Helms, Frank Murkowski and Alfonse D'Amato, resolved that the Senate "condemns North Korea for its stated intention to withdraw from the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons." "It is the sense of the Senate that the United States and its international partners should take measured steps to compel North Korea to remain a party to the treaty and to allow unconditional special inspections of apparent nuclear waste sites and other areas suspected of harboring a nuclear weapons building program," the resolution says.

Robb, in a statement to President Bill Clinton regarding the resolution, advocated a "full-court diplomatic press" including Pyongyang-Washington counselor-level contacts in Beijing, direct inter-Korean talks and Chinese intervention. "Simultaneous to the entreaties, this matter merits the consideration of the U.N. Security Council," the senator said. He asked that a special U.N. envoy be tasked to persuade North Korea out of its decision while resolutions of disapproval are adopted by the security council to build international consensus.

Calling for a list of punitive sanctions, Robb said: "The list should be shared with Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il so they understand the import of thumbing their noses at the international community. "Sanctions on oil would be particularly important, and agricultural products, military supplies, heavy machinery, and other strategic items should be targeted," said the statement.

China, which shipped 1.1 million tons of oil to North Korea in 1991, must be persuaded to participate in the sanctions, Robb said, adding that Russia, with "noteworthy" sales of military equipment to Pyongyang, also had a role to play. The United States should consider halting its food shipments to North Korea, the senator said, noting that "license authority presently exists for U.S. commercial sales of up to 1.2 billion U.S. dollars." "The noose around North Korea's neck can be tightened further through military enforcement of sanctions, and it is not an option that I rule out," Robb said.

Editorial Discusses U.S. Market Opening Demands

SK0404020093 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 4 Apr 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Telecom Market Opening"]

[Text] The market-opening measure announced in Seoul and Washington simultaneously Thursday was a decided step toward lifting Korea's trade restrictions vis-a-vis all partners including the United States. It came as part of our sustained effort to promote free trade, through which we hope the Korean economy will occupy a significant niche in the world market despite the growing trend of protectionism around the globe.

Conceding to mounting pressure from the United States to open its telecommunications market, the Seoul government has agreed to remove various obstacles that had prevented American firms from competing for new contracts in the field of telecommunications equipment. This should result in millions of dollars of new export sales for the United States, paving the way for such U.S. firms as American Telephone and Telegraph Co. to compete for what could amount to 400 billion won a year in contracts here.

Granted that making the concession could hardly have been easy for us, there has to be give-and-take to keep up good Korea-U.S. relations. Reciprocity and fairness are the names of the game in commerce. Once the chief obstacle has been hurdled, the two countries must work together to clear the way for mutually beneficial and equitable trade ties ahead.

The Clinton administration has been making every effort to rescue its sagging economy and trade by threatening to impose sanctions if its trade partners do not immediately open their markets to U.S. goods and services. A financial crunch obliged Washington to hard-sell its demand for free market access everywhere.

Disputes have been raging over whether, in the face of growing international pressure, we should open our local markets to foreign products and services. Allowing wider access to our markets may be inevitable. The question is how to deal with the tides of the time in the manner least damaging to the national economy.

We can no longer afford to adhere to the policy of keeping local markets closed to foreign competition under the pretext of protecting local industries. The only way to tide over the critical challenge from overseas is to strengthen the fabric of our own industries enough to weather international rivalries.

Pressures are not limited to the telecommunications equipment industry. Virtually all sectors of our industry are subject to pressure from abroad. Resistance by means of a protective trade policy would hardly pay. We have to enter the arena of a fiercely competitive world commerce by bolstering our own viability in terms of both price and quality.

In the latest market-opening step, Seoul gave as much as, or probably more than, it could afford, for the sake of developing fair and viable trade relations between Korea and America. Adverse reactions are bound to arise here. Further details of the market-opening measures ought to be worked out in a way that would best nurture the local industry, on whose condition the future of Korea's economy depends.

Vancouver Summit Reaffirms U.S.-Russian Links

SK0604060793 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 6 Apr 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Rescuing Russia and Security"]

[Text] The Russo-American summit held in Vancouver over the weekend was a highly positive occasion to reaffirm the fledgling ties of friendship and partnership between the two giants who have come out of a Cold War confrontation on a dangerous balance of power and terror.

However, the economic plight and consequent political turmoil in Russia darkened the atmosphere at the otherwise happy encounter between the two leaders. Without any serious military bone of contention, the meeting was anything but tense, yet the domestic trouble in Russia dominated and sobered the air over Vancouver.

U.S. President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin met for the first time at the summit that changed U.S. relations with Moscow. The once suspicious antagonists became partners in democracy and world peace. Their discussion focused not on war and disarmament but on mutual aid and cooperation.

The Clinton administration Sunday unveiled a $1.6 billion aid package to bolster political and economic reforms in Russia. President Clinton endorsed both of the cases Yeltsin put forward to seek a helping hand from the United States—U.S. investment and a vote of confidence in his ability to fight against hard-line political opposition through democratic and free-market reforms.

Washington's moral support for Yeltsin was amplified when Clinton said it was the duty of all the world's democracies to assist Russian reform in their new hour of challenge. Emphasizing that U.S. aid was only the first step, he noted that the world's wealthiest democracies have been asked to provide assistance to Russia and that Britain and Canada have already responded. Japan and Germany are expected to join in a large-scale financing program at the Group of Seven meeting slated for Tokyo next week.

Doubtless the overwhelming endorsement by Washington and its Western allies will strengthen Yeltsin's position in the April 25 popular referendum that will clarify the political situation in Russia in the wake of a narrowly-averted impeachment attempt by the legislature. Yeltsin must successfully maneuver against former Communist foes to preserve his power to ensure the continuation of the delayed reforms and also the stability of the world.

The call made by Russia and America for North Korea to reverse its unwarranted declaration to poll out of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty comes as an encouraging assurance of global concern in the emerging peril of a nuclear arms race in and around the Korean Peninsula. The outcomes of the latest summit must serve the two equally vital causes of rescuing the Russian economy and ensuring international security.

Daily Interviews Russian Defense Minister Grachev

SK0604054293 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 4 Apr 93 p 4

["Written" interview with Russian Defense Minister Pavel Sergeyevich Grachev by Moscow-based correspondent Chang Haeng-hun: "The Burden of Armament Is Equally Excessive for North and South"]

[Text] [Chang Haeng-hun] What is the significance of the agreement on military exchanges between the ROK and Russian Governments, which was signed during President Boris Yeltsin's visit to the ROK in November 1992?

[Grachev] It is the first document outlining ROK-Russian cooperation in the military area which prepares a basis of regular, systematic cooperation. The two countries will develop mutual military contacts and exchanges based on this agreement. I expect ROK-Russian military relations and contacts will become more animated through expanded political dialogue and economic cooperation between the two countries. I do not mean, however, to lower the significance of the military agreement by these words.

[Chang] Do you think it will be possible for Russia to expand military cooperation with the ROK in the near future? If so, what field do you think shows the brightest potential for cooperation?

[Grachev] I am willing to exchange opinions and cooperate with all Asian countries and their military leaders on all issues falling under the jurisdiction of our business. I believe that, even in case politicians or diplomats cannot solve a problem between two countries, soldiers can find a common area within the boundary of military cooperation between the two.

Military exchanges within the boundary of friendly contacts and exchanges between two neighboring countries is an effective method to guarantee common security, not only in the region the two countries belong to but also in the entire world. It is important, I think, that the ROK and Russia have primary interests in developing their military relations based on the ROK-Russia agreement, keeping the above principle in mind.

[Chang] What is your view on the balance, or on relations, of military power on the Korean peninsula?

[Grachev] I would rather compare military potentials of South and North Korea than talk about the balance of military power on the Korean peninsula. I think that viewing the issue by merely comparing military power was prompted by the idea of confrontation and by the precondition that military clashes were inevitable.

In view of the urgent need for consolidating peace on the Korean peninsula, one should point out that instead of the mere mention of the balance of military power, the Korean peninsula has now reached its limit in terms of sharing the excessive burdens of armaments. On this small land, 4,000 tanks, 14,000 field guns, more than 1,000 fighters, and 100-odd war ships and patrol vessels are being deployed.

North and South of Korea are maintaining more than 1.5 million troops. The troops of the North and the South are in confrontation with each other with a narrow demilitarized zone in between. Armaments of both sides are equally excessive; their military confrontation is acute, and mutual distrust persists.

Judging from historical experiences and a sound common-sense point of view, it is obvious that the issue of the Korean peninsula, particularly the issue of reunification on the Korean peninsula, cannot be resolved by force of arms. Therefore, it is necessary to expand South-North dialogue based on the North-South Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Exchange and Cooperation as well as to strengthen mutual trust by, for example, lowering the level of armed confrontation in the military area.

Russia, the United States, China, Japan, and other strong countries can play the role of mediators between South and North Korea. But the Koreans themselves are to make a final decision to settle the issue of the Korean peninsula. Whether South-North dialogue succeeds or fails depends ultimately on the Koreans' good faith and hope to reach mutual understanding and reconciliation.

[Chang] Experts say that Russia has lost its influence over Pyongyang by suspending its supply of some kinds of weapons to North Korea.

[Grachev] We are trying to maintain cooperation with North Korea for common interests in all areas while removing ideological factors from relations between the two countries. Russia has no intention to exercise any kind of influence over North Korea. It does not have the slightest intention to put pressure upon North Korea by means of providing it with weapons or military technologies. It has no intention to make the sales of certain weapons an object of negotiations with the North Korean military leadership, either.

[Chang] What role, do you think, Russia can play on the Korean peninsula in the military strategic aspect?

[Grachev] The former Soviet Union as well as the United States and China share the burden of historical responsibility for the post World War II division of the Korean peninsula. As the legal successor of the Soviet Union, Russia is really interested in establishing safety and security on the Korean peninsula by overcoming the last aftermath of the cold war.

While the former Soviet Union maintained a firm military and political alliance with North Korea and had no relations with South Korea, the possibilities for having the Soviet Union exert influence over the Korean peninsula were extremely limited.

Russia is actively developing relations, especially military relations, with the ROK. At the same time, it is trying to maintain and expand its relations with North Korea, too.

Russia and North Korea are still maintaining the DPRK-Russia Friendship and Mutual Assistance Treaty signed in 1961. This treaty, however, is no longer anti-South Korea.

Opposition Lawmakers Disclose Private Assets

SK0604045393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0330 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP)—Lawmakers of the Democratic Party [DP] and United People's Party [UPP] unveiled their wealth Tuesday, many of them raising suspicion of real estate speculation. The wealth of the 95 lawmakers and nine non-parliamentary leaders of the DP averaged 1,514.2 million won (1.9 million U.S. dollars) at market prices, or 1,069.3 million won at government appraised values by which vice ministers and ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] lawmakers based their disclosures.

The average was much smaller than the DLP's 2.5 billion won and similiar to the ministers' 1.03 billion won and vice ministers' 1.07 billion won, but a great number of opposition party lawmakers were also suspected of real estate speculation as many own land in areas they have no relation to or have holdings in the names of their children. Because some of them reported real estate at far below market and government-appraised values, the DP is also expected to get a black eye over its asset disclosure.

The party is poised to thoroughly investigate the accuracy of the disclosures and raise strong actions against distortion or illegality. Three DP members were worth over 10 billion won; two, between 5 billion won and 10 billion won; eight, 3 billion won to 5 billion won; 24, 1 billion won to 3 billion won; 22, 500 million won to 1 billion won; 37, 100 million won to 500 million won; and eight, below 100 million won.

The richest were Rep. Kim Ok-chon of the national constituency with a worth, including a hotel in Kwangju, of 16.74 billion won, national constituency Rep. Kuk Chong-nam, who owns a film company, worth 10.76 billion won, and Kim Chung-hyon, whose brother owns a wedding hall, worth 10.22 billion won. Next in the lead for wealth were real estate millionaire Rep. Yi Kyong-chae of Seoul's Kuro B-district (9.13 billion won), and footwear company President Rep. Kang Hui-chan (6.28 billion won).

But at government-appraised property prices, Kim Chun-hyon made top place with 8.28 billion won, followed by Yi Kyong-chae with 7.06 billion won and Kang Hui-chan with 6.03 billion won, illustrating the discrepancy between real and appraised values. Back to the market-price ranking, school magnate Rep. Kim In-kon of Hampyong and Yongkwang, South Cholla Province, made sixth place with over 4.69 billion won, followed by DP leader Yi Ki-taek (4.69 billion won), Kim Pong-ho of Haenam and Chindo of South Cholla (4.66 billion won), and Kim Myong-kyu of Kwangyang, South Cholla (4.47 billion won).

The ranking above 3 billion won was picked up by national constituency Rep. Pak Chong-hun, whose father is a lawyer, at 4.43 billion won, former president of Chongbo Food Co. Kim Won-kil of Seoul's Tobong B (3.99 billion won), Ha Kun-su of Southern Inchon (3.82 billion won), thanks to his millionaire wife, and former district attorney Kang Su-nim of Seoul's Songdong (3.42 billion won). Former deputy national tax administrator Chang Che-sik is worth 2.01 billion won and former maritime and port administrator Kang Chang-song has 1.38 bilion won.

Party spokesman Pak Chae-won, a former chairman of the Korean community in the United States, reported a worth of 2.82 billion won, including 2.29 billion won in America, and Rep. Cho Sun-song of Sungju, South Cholla, had 69 million won in the United States out of a total of 430 million won. On the tail of the list were Rep. Yi Yun-su of Songnam, Kyonggi Province, with 9.28 million won; Kim Chung-cho of Yosu, South Cholla, 11 million won; Yi U-chong of the national constituency, 13 million won; Yi Pyong-chol, non-parliamentary key post-holder, 44 million won; Kim Chang-kon of Naju, South Cholla, 46 million won; Che Chong-ku of Sihung and Kunpo, Kyonggi, 84 million won; and Chong Kyun-hwan of Kochang, North Cholla, 95 million won.

Thirteen lawmakers of the UPP, except Rep. Chong Chu-il who missed the registration deadline, bared wealth Monday evening that averaged 1,858 million won. Chong announced assets Tuesday of 6.44 billion won put his net worth at 4.7 billion won, and then declared his resignation from the parliament.

Professor-turned-politician Kim Tong-kil, UPP leader and representative from Kangnam, Seoul, has land and property worth 1.51 billion won. The UPP's wealthiest is Yu Su-ho, former DLP district head of Taegu, whose two buildings and land in Taegu and three apartments in southeastern Seoul amounted to 3.9 billion won.

Rep. Kim Pok-tong of Taegu, brother-in-law of former president No Tae-u and a former president of the Korea Military Academy, was next with 3.47 billion won and Son Sung-tok of Chunchon, Kangwon, reported a net worth of 2.74 billion won. Former finance minister Kim Yong-hwan is worth 2.74 billion won; former Marine Corps commandant and UPP secretary-general Pak Ku-il, 1.84 billion won; former DLP secretary-general Yi Cha-hon, 1.68 billion won; and actress Kang Pu-cha, 1.29 billion won.

Former sports and youth minister Pak Chol-on said his house, savings and stock totalled 2.48 billion won, but added he owned no land. Dr. Mun Chang-mo had 750 million won, former journalist Cho Sun-hwan of Songpa, Seoul, 520 million won, and Han Yong-su, 330 million won. Cho Il-hyon with 98 million won made last.

Further on Lawmakers' Assets

SK0304073193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0610 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 3 (YONHAP)—Minor opposition and independent lawmakers bared their assets Saturday amid public urgings after the dislosures by the government and ruling Democratic Liberal Party last month. Rep. Yi Chong-chan, leader of the New Korea Party [NKP] and a contender in the presidential election last December, declared his worth at 1,621 million won (2.03 million U.S. dollars) and NKP Rep. Chang Kyong-u of Ansan, Kyonggi Province, put his worth at 1,419 million won.

Yi lives in a 594-square-meter house in Chongro in central Seoul (608 million won), owns a 990-square-meter memorial center in Chongro (2 billion won), a 1989 Daewoo 2.4-liter imperial car (8.5 million won), has savings of 13.47 million won, and memberships (44.2 million won). This is balanced by debts of 1.7 billion won from the presidential election campaign.

His wife, Yun Chang-sun, has an 82.5-square-meter office in Insadong, Chongro, and a 1992 Daewoo 1.8-liter Prince car (6.5 million won), and his son owns real estate worth 507 million won. Chang's assets include a 201.3-square-meter apartment in Ansan (68 million won), deposits of 135 million won in an apartment and a building in Ansan, a club membership (54 million won), a Kia Potentia car and Besta minivan (27 million won), and savings of 15 million won. He has 60 million won in debts. His wife, Kim Su-pok, has real estate in Southeastern Seoul valued at 631.48 million won, three memberships (28.5 million won), and a Sonata car (4 million won).

Chang listed his father's total assets at 516.23 million won. Independent Reps. Yi Hak-won, Chong Tae-yong and Yi Ho-chong, former members of the United People's Party, listed their assets in order as 2.75 billion won, 1.75 billion won and 302 million won.

Lawmaker Resigns From United People's Party

SK0604045593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0332 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP)—Rep. Chong Chu-il of the splinter United People's Party announced his departure from the National Assembly Tuesday after disclosing assets of 6.44 billion won (8.21 million U.S. dollars). Chong gave his net worth as 4.7 billion won (6 million dollars).

The former comedian did not comply with Monday's deadline for financial disclosure statements in protest to the party's decision to make the disclosures en bloc. He reportedly submitted his letter of resignation to the speaker of the National Assembly.

Kim Invites Opposition To Work With Government

SK0604034493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0252 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam called Tuesday for the government and the ruling party to foster close cooperative relations with the opposition, in a departure from the past practice of excluding the opposition from state management. "The government should accept a wide range of opinions from every walk of society in an impartial way because genuine reform is possible only with the voluntary participation of the people," Kim said.

Kim issued his instruction while receiving a briefing by Kim Tok-yong, first state minister for Political Affairs, on major policies of the minister's office. The president said that every means possible should be worked out to help connect native civic organizations, including dissident groups, with the government to turn their healthy criticism into "vitality" for reforms.

"The government should be convinced that the opposition parties can be partners with a role in managing state administration, and therefore it should work out regulations on prior consultations, providing data and visits for explanations and take similar steps so that the opposition camp can trust the government's will." The president, noting that common recognition and efforts for government-party affairs could usher in reforms, instructed his minister to reshape government-party meetings, often run by unilateral notificiation by either side, in such a way that both sides would participate in the process of drawing up policies.

"Clean, economized politics is an irrevocable trend of the people and the age," Kim maintained. "Controversies erupting in the process of making public the wealth of high-ranking officials and politicians are remnants of the old politics. "Accordingly, every endeavor should be made to get political morality to take root in a systematic manner."

Minister Kim said that the government would open its doors wider for the opposition parties to participate in the reform movement. "The government will do its utmost to create a sound cooperative system with the opposition as partners for reform," he said. Stressing that the government would have frequent contact with major opposition figures to listen to their opinions on issues and to reflect in policies to a considerable extent, Minister Kim said that he would, if possible, seek their cooperation in drawing up major laws and policies.

The government would give dissidents and sound civic organizations more opportunities to participate in state administration through the Government Administration Reform Committee or Committee for Prevention of Wrongdoings and Corruption in an attempt to fully reflect their criticisms and opinions, he told the president. In addition, Minister Kim said that the government would recommend to civic groups that they register with relevant agencies so that legal basis for official assistance for them could be made.

Won Drops To 7-1 Rate Against Yen

SK0604074793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0635 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP)—The Korean currency weakened to a record 700.35 won for 100 Japanese yen Tuesday, falling 0.92 won from the previous peak of

699.43 won Saturday, the Korea Financial Telecommunications and Clearing Institute (KFTC) said Tuesday. The won has been weakening since the won-yen exchange rate broke the 600-won barrier with a level of 616.12 won to 100 yen on Dec. 10, 1987, and the slide recently picked up speed. The yen is up 67.53 won from 633 won last year-end. The Korean currency has depreciated 9.6 percent against yen so far this year, more than double last year's 4.08 percent.

As the Japanese currency continued its runaway surge on the international financial markets, the U.S. dollar weakened to 113.70 yen on the New York foreign exchange market Monday and plunged to 113.60 yen in the Tokyo market as of Tuesday morning. The won-dollar exchange rate is based on the average trading prices on the Seoul market the previous day and the rest of the foreign exchange rates are set by applying the won-dollar rate to prices traded in the Tokyo market. As of Tuesday, the won was 795.6 per dollar, a change of 0.9 percent from 788.4 won last year-end.

Finance Minister Stresses Economic Recovery

SK0104132593 Seoul HANGUK KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 30 Mar 93 p 3

[Interview with ROK Finance Minister Hong Chae-hyong by Yu Hwa-son, chief of the Economic Department, at his office in Kwachon, Kyonggi Province—date not given]

[Text] [Yu Hwa-son] Your office has become smaller. Is it inconvenient for you to work here due to the many guests you must meet in your office?

[Hong Chae-hyong] The office was 72 pyong [one pyong equals three square meters]. It is now 52 pyong. The reduction of the space was part of the government's efforts to be the first in eliminating the authoritarian tradition and share the pain.

In the past, a finance minister called in various people and gave instructions to them. Various people visited the office to ask favors. As a result, the finance minister's office must have been big. However, we have undergone significant changes. Various restrictions have been eased to a great extent.

[Yu] You do not look well. I heard you were at first very motivated to work. I presume that something has gone wrong. In response to your efforts to put your convictions into practice, does any one...?

[Hong] No. There are differences in views between the views that I had as a bank president and those which I have now as finance minister. I have to coordinate different views in the government economic team if there are any. You must understand this.

[Yu] I think the 26 March reduction of interest rates is a good example. You preferred the deregulation of interest rates, rather than their reduction. Many people now consider it regrettable that the government has failed to deregulate interest rates, at the most opportune time.

[Hong] There can be no set timetable in implementing economic policies. If we see only the financial market, the recent fluctuation of interest rates, and the money supply, now is the best time to deregulate interest rates. There is no question about that. However, if we consider all aspects of the national economy, it is very urgent to revive the economy.

The industrial production saw a decrease in January this year, and businessmen are less inclined to make new investment. If interest rates are deregulated and if, then, this causes adverse effects, our economy may run into irreparable disaster. Under these circumstances, we cannot experiment with deregulating interest rates.

[Yu] You mean that the government intends to spur the depreciation of interest rates and, thus, stabilize them at a low level, do you not?

[Hong] Some banks are not ready for the deregulation of interest rates. The deregulation will have a significant impact on non-monetary financial institutions.

[Yu] Then, when will you implement the second-phase deregulation of interest rates?

[Hong] We must restore economic vitality, first of all. If the current economic atmosphere continues to prevail, we will not be able to have an economic recovery in the second quarter. Our country's annual growth rate will be lower than the projected 5 to 6 percent. Therefore, we will carefully watch the overall trends of the national economy. When we see clear signs of an economic recovery, the second-phase deregulation will be implemented. However, we will not pass the end of the year deadline, which we have promised publicly.

[Yu] I think that the 100-day plan for a new economy contains very aggressive strategies. The plan calls for the expansion of financing for trade and equipment purchases. Business circles, however, generally believe that this approach is very different from the Finance Ministry's view. The ministry is being dragged by other ministries or offices, is it not?

[Hong] The economic team unanimously considers it important to recover economic vitality.

The money supply will be increased by 930 billion won if the 100-day plan is implemented. This is a mere one percent of the money supply (M 2), a small portion. This will not cause inflation because the manufacturing sector's operating rate of equipment is low at present and because the manufacturing sector is overstocked. I think that there will be no problem because capital will be invested in expanding facilities for export, not expanding demand.

[Yu] There has been confusion over when to implement the real-name financial transaction system. You proposed announcing the final plan in May. However, your proposal was not adopted.

[Hong] The president told a news conference on 19 March that he would implement this system before his term of office finishes. This is the final plan for now as far as this system is concerned.

[Yu] You said that the five-year new economic plan would contain a basic direction. Would you explain "the meaning of a basic direction" in detail?

[Hong] The issue concerning a basic direction will be decided through negotiations with relevant ministries and departments.

[Yu] The report about the financial ministry, which you made to the president, did not refer to the real-name financial transaction system at all. Did you step back from the real-name financial transaction system for fear of its adverse effect?

[Hong] The real-name financial transaction system will be conducted during the current presidential term. This is a known fact.

[Yu] I can understand why you are avoiding the issue of the real-name financial transaction system. The discussion itself about the real-name financial transaction system is based on a very radical change. Some exaggeratedly claim that the real-name financial transaction system will play a cure-all role in realizing economic justice. Others claim that it would not be long before the economy would enter bankruptcy, if the real-name financial transaction system is adopted. What do you think about these claims? How about conducting such a system as a bearer bond system of long-term low interest? A bearer bond system will be favorable not only to the real-name financial transaction system but also to the trend toward a monetary-stock system [kumyung chunggwonhwa].

[Hong] Lets talk about this issue later.

[Yu] If the government announces the date of the beginning of real-name financial transaction system, many adverse effects will take place until the system is conducted. How about secretly preparing for the system and suddenly conducting the system some day?

[Hong] There is nothing to be added or excluded from the president's remarks about the real-name financial transaction system.

[Yu] Some point out that the beginning of the discussions about the real-name financial transaction system was inappropriate. When the real-name financial transaction system was postponed in 1990, the law itself on the real-name financial transaction system should have been rescinded without postponing the system. It would have been similar to the Green Card System discussed in Japan in 1984. What do you think about this?

[Hong] Some say that, if the government had properly advertised the postponement of the real-name financial transaction system, such an ado would not have taken place. If the government had faithfully explained not only why the real-name financial transaction system was postponed, but also why a customary practice should be first mended before conducting a system, this would have been helpful in gaining the people's sympathy.

[Yu] In addition to the real-name financial transaction system, all tasks to conduct reform should undergo such a procedure. There is always a risk in promoting reform. Not promoting reform at all is a problem. However, excessive reform is also a dangerous thing. The point is how will the Financial Ministry act during the new government's reform. More than half of the new government's reform projects, including monetary reform and financial reform, are related to the financial ministry. As minister of the national treasury, who should take the most conservative stand, can he be in the vanguard of reform...

[Hong] People think that only when everything is suddenly changed in one day, can reform cause success. However, this is not always true. It is important to steadily press ahead with reform.

[Yu] A radical change may cause a counter-reforming element.

[Hong] Thus, reform is like a long-distance race. It can be said that reform is like playing a game of chess. There is a 'Chol' in the Korean-chess game. It is slow but it can never step back. Even if we can step aside if a problem occurs in the course of promoting reform, we can steadily advance toward our target. Reform should not move at will like a 'Cha' and 'Po' in a Korean-chess game. The monetary and financial reforms, of which the financial ministry should be in charge, will be steadily and patiently promoted like a 'pawn' in a Korean-chess game.

[Yu] I agree with you. The recent measure of easing administrative regulations was like a 100-meter race, I think.

In some respects, conducting such a measure as a 100-meter race will be necessary, because the government has so far strengthened regulations.

[Hong] The policy of easing restrictions may give rise to unfavorable side effects. However, it was set up on the principle of taking supplementary measures after putting it in practice.

[Yu] Reorganization of the financial industry is one of important tasks of reform. It seems that a system allowing large business groups to own banks is being discussed.

[Hong] I will collect public opinion from various circles on bank ownership. Basically, however, this system requires a prerequisite of financial institutions' public and sound spirit. In our country, large business groups' financial structures are not firm enough to own banks.

Moreover, their owning banks is contrary to the policy of preventing the centralization of economic power. When banks are owned by large business groups, financial funds come to be under the control of industrial funds. I think this would be undesirable.

Even in the United States, which is the most advanced capitalist society, a bill on reforming the monetary system that allows business groups to own banks was rejected by Congress in 1991.

[Yu] To reduce policy money is a difficult task in narrowing the gap between theory and reality. Policy money is being abused in our country. I heard, however, that Professor Tyson, new chairman of the U.S. presidential economic consultative committee, is insisting on the introduction of preferential financing such as policy money in the ROK and Japan.

[Hong] It is true that banks have been undergoing difficulties because of policy money. From a long-term view, policy money must disappear. The time, in which the government is to decide this or that industry is important or necessary, is over as our economy becomes mature.

But, it is impossible to reduce policy support money in a day. It has to be reduced gradually in conformity with the real conditions.

[Yu] The work of reorganizing the financial industry, which had been accelerated, seems to be dull nowadays. Your lack of interest in it might be the reason.

[Hong] The commission for financial industry development and a small committee of experts are discussing a way for reorganizing the financial industry. The Finance Ministry is also preparing its own draft on it. I will conclude the reorganization of the financial industry by the end of June through a collection of public opinion. Reorganization of the financial industry cannot be delayed because it must be reflected in the Five-Year New Economic Plan.

[Yu] How is the three-phased money market opening plan going? Premature opening of money markets may result in failures such as those facing South America, and too late of an opening may result in a so-called plural crisis, in which a financial crisis is followed by a commodity crisis. Japan is suffering a plural crisis now. In short, timing is so important.

[Hong] The three-phased opening plan includes liberalization of interest rates, foreign currency, and fund liberalization. The issue of opening itself cannot be handled separately from other money policies. It is needed to open up money markets by the end of June, when the reorganization of the financial industry will be completed, if possible. We should keep our promise to others on timing, but I believe the United States will understand our situation.

[Yu] In the financial aspect, I think taxes should be raised because this year's tax collection prospect is not clear.

[Hong] To find out sources of tax revenue by mobilizing all the government's capability to uncover unlawful, unearned income, such as income from speculative investment in real estate, is more important than revising tax laws to increase taxes.

In particular, through a complete collection of taxation materials, such as materials on doctors' medical treatments with beneficiaries of medical insurance and materials on law cases taken by lawyers, I will strengthen criteria that should be used in imposing taxes on those who have professional jobs. I am also considering a method to collect and investigate materials which show the living standards of those who are not sincere in reporting their taxable incomes.

[Yu] In connection with financial reform, do you not think that the most important problem is to join together the institution for revenues and the institution for expenditure? That is the so-called problem of integrating various financial fields. If the Economic Planning Board is given the authority to carry out the function of expenditure and the Finance Ministry the function of revenue as they are now, there can be random tax deductions in the field of revenue. This is proven from the fact that currently there are about 40 kinds of tax deductions. In this regard the function of expenditure will also concentrate on collecting each one's share.

[Hong] When viewed only from an efficiency aspect, it is correct to join together the institution for revenues and the institution for expenditure. Tax deduction is in part subsidizing the budget. However, it is inevitable for the side receiving subsidies to think that this is simply a tax deduction. Integrating various financial functions is not an issue to be discussed with efficiency alone. The overall government organization should be considered. However, there has not been detailed discussion on this matter.

[Yu] There are many tasks in the reform of various systems. However, I believe that the most important one is the reform of consciousness. Liberal appointment of personnel can be a good example. No one can own over eight percent of the commercial banks. Therefore, we should think about what significance the term, "liberal appointment of personnel," has in electing presidents of banks and so on. If a president of a bank is vacant, is it not a fact that the bank looks toward the government rather than the stockholders?

[Hong] Truly the problem is the attitude of the banks. Recently, when talking about the liberal appointment of personnel, banks think that it is customary to carry out promotion within the banks. This is a mistake. Why cannot people working outside the banks be promoted? It just does not matter. He should be a person who is respectable, and who works hard to develop the organization.

Liberal appointment of personnel is guaranteed through improvement in consciousness, environment, and efforts by the banks themselves.

[Yu] How much were you involved in the appointment of presidents of government-run banks? It was known that one person recommended three persons for the position. Then, in terms of numerical value, your influence is about 30 percent.

[Hong] That is not so. The finance minister makes a recommendation for the president of the government-run bank. He is also to be appointed within this range. So do you not think that I am 100 percent involved (smile)?

[Yu] You mean that you recommended three scenarios. I believe that personnel changes of the chairman of bank associations and others affiliated to the Finance Ministry will follow suit.

[Hong] I have not thought about it yet. We're very busy with our own work...

[Yu] There is much concern over the accumulation of personnel within the Finance Ministry. People who served as assistant junior officials can become a secretary only after 15 to 20 years. I think there is a problem with morale among employees. People say that civil servants stay on their jobs regardless of meager pay, because of the satisfaction they receive in being promoted step by step.

[Hong] Personnel changes of civil servants are different from private businesses. There are many restrictions. We are working to find methods so that the morale of the civil servants does not fall.

[Yu] A chilly wind is blowing in financial circles because audits and inspections are being conducted. How long will it continue? Does it mean that there will be more presidents of banks who will be fired?

[Hong] I do not think so. Everyone should change not just because of conducting audit and inspection. I myself will work to change. There is a saying that public office is an attendant to a high official. I will work to accomplish many worthwhile achievements.

Burma

Khin Nyunt Offers Rebels Regional Development Role

BK0304062293 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], and his entourage left Yangon [Rangoon] yesterday morning in a military plane and arrived in Mandalay at 0900. Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt was ccompanied by Lt. Gen. Kyaw Ba, minister for Hotels and Tourism; Lt. Gen. Maung Thint, minister for development of border region and national races; Lt. Gen. Kyaw Min, minister for mines; Brigadier General Myo Thant, minister of information; Colonel Pe Thein, minister of education; U Khin Maung Thein, minister of energy; U Than Aung, minister of cooperatives; Brig. Gen. Tin Ngwe, chief of staff, Air Force; Col. Than Zin, deputy minister of health; responsible officials from the Office of SLORC, directors generals and managing directors from departments concerned, and officials concerned. [passage omitted]

The secretary-1 and his entourage left Mandalay by plane and arrived in Myitkyina at 1600. [passage omitted]

Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt, accompanied by Brig. Gen. Saw Lwin, commander of the Northern Military Command, inspected Kyeinkhrankhe Hydroelectric Power Project on 2 April. [passage omitted] At 0800, a ceremony was held to mark the opening of Kyeinkhrakhe Hydroelectric Power Project. [passage omitted] Speaking at the ceremony, Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt said the project is the second power station to be opened in the Kachin State and that the first station was opened in Yanchaung in Mohnyin Township last year. He said a special feature of this power station is that it is a project implemented with the people's power through joint efforts made by the state government and the people.

Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt noted that the station was successfully opened today because of the joint efforts of the local people, who provided 1,000 to 1,200 people daily for the project out of their own awareness. He said the people provided Kyat 35 million and the government provided over Kyat 20 million in local currency and U.S. $700,000 for this project. He explained that the station would provide electricity to Myitkyina, the capital city of Kachin State, and villages in the vicinity of the project.

Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt said that during its time in office, the SLORC is carrying out social, economic, and other integrated national development projects throughout the country, including border regions. He added that although the Kachin State has the prospects for more development, it is slow in development due to internal insurgency.

He said the cultivation of crops and the establishment of cottage industries are possible in the Kachin State, which is very lush, beautiful, and livable with its rivers, mountains, and forests. He added that the SLORC has been inviting insurgent organizations with various beliefs to return to the legal fold and to work hand in hand with the government and the Defense Services for regional development. He said so far, nine groups had returned to the legal fold and worked with the government and the Defense Services and the regions of their fraternal people have developed beyond all expectations.

Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt said during the course of four years, the SLORC had spent over 1 billion kyat in working for regional development without discrimination between the Myanmar Proper and states. He said the Kachin State has been able to carry out development work in some areas only due to insurgency, but once there is peace and stability in the area, more development work can be carried out. He therefore urged the insurgent organisations to understand the goodwill of the state government and invited them to work together in regional development tasks.

Continuing, Lt. Gen Khin Nyunt explained that during its four year in office, in addition to its national construction and development tasks, the SLORC has been striving to enable the people to march on the correct political path. He said that the National Convention is being held successfully in order to lay down the basic principles for drafting the state constitution, which is the most important matter for the state and which concerns every citizen. He called on the convention delegates to uphold three major causes—nondisintegration of the Union, nondisintegration of national unity, perpetuation of the national sovereignty—and to obtain the basic principles in the interests of the nation and the people.

He said no matter how much the internal and external destructive elements try to undermine the nation and the national unity, Myanmar—the union where various national races reside—will obtain the strength of the people within the country in carrying out construction and development projects and continue to uphold the three major causes and strive to march along aspired the political path. [passage omitted]

In order to accelerate the development in the Kachin State, he invited the armed insurgent organizations in the jungle to understand the true policy of the Defense Services and to return to the legal fold and work hand in hand with the Defense Services in regional development. [passage omitted]

Plenary Session of National Convention Begins

BK0404130793 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] The plenary session of the National Convention was held at 1000 today in the Central Conference Hall in the compound of the President's House on Ahlone Road. U Za Khung Ting Ring, Kachin State Special Region-1, presided as alternate chairman with U Aye Thwin, U Tha Zan Hla, U Mahn Tin Aung Than, U Naing San Shein, U Sai Tint Aung, U San Tin, U Aung Than, and

U Kyi Aye as members of the Panel of Chairmen. U Khin Maung Myint acted as secretary of the meeting.

Today's plenary session was attended by Lieutenant General Myo Nyunt, chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission; commission members; U Aung Toe, chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee; committee members; Brigadier General Tin Aye, chairman of the National Convention Management Committee; committee members; and local and foreign journalists.

The secretary declared the meeting valid as the plenary session was attended by a total of 605 delegates. In accordance with the agenda, various groups of delegates presented reports on suggestions for prescribing chapter headings to lay down basic principles for drawing up the state constitution.

The reports of the delegates from the political parties were first read. The report of the National League for Democracy [NLD] was read by U Lwin; the report of the Shan State Nationalities League for Democracy [SNLD] was read by U Sai Ai Paung; the report of the National Unity Party [NUP] was read by U Tun Yi; and the report of the Union Pa-o National Organization [UPNO] was read by U Khun Sein Win. The meeting adjourned briefly for lunch at 1120.

When the meeting resumed at 1220, the report of the Shan State Kokang Democratic Party [SSKDP] was read by U Ti Taung Wai; the report of the Mro or Khami National Solidarity Organization [MKNSO] was read by U Maung Peing alias U Khin Maung Thein; the report of the La-hu National Development Party was read by U Yaw Aye Hla; the report of the Union Kayin League was read by U Saw Than Aung; the report of the Kokang Democracy and Unity Party was read by U Khin Maung Aye; and the report of the Wa National Development Party was read by U Nyi Palote.

Subsequently, the report of the elected representatives of the NLD and the independent representatives U Hla Maung, Constituency-1 Kya-in Seikkyi Township, Karen State; and U Tun Hlaing, Constituency-1 Bahan Township, Yangon Division was read by U Tun Yi, Sandoway Township Constituency. The report of the elected representatives of the SNLD, NUP, UPNO, SSKDP, and MKNSO and the independent representatives U Khin Maung Cho, Constituency-1, Dirrawhso Township; Dr. Hmu Tang, Thangtalang Township Constituency; U Tun Kyaw, Namhsan Township Constituency; U Htaung Kho Htan, Tamu Township Constituency; and U Aung Thein, Ywangan Township Constituency was read by U Htaung Kho Htan. The meeting adjourned briefly at 1415.

When the meeting resumed, various groups of delegates continued to present the reports on suggestions for prescribing chapter headings to lay down basic principles for drawing up the constitution.

The report of the group of delegates representing the national races was read by U Saw Remy, Henzada Township, Irrawaddy Division; the report of the group of delegates representing peasants was read by U Sai San Tun, Kyaukme Township, Shan State; the report of the group of delegates representing workers was read by Daw Aye Kyi, Sagaing Township, Sagaing Division; the report of the group of delegates representing intelligentsia and technocrats was read by Rector Tha Hla Shwe; the report of the group of delegates representing public service personnel was read by U San Aung, Ministry of Energy; and the report of the special invitees was read by of U Pe Htin, Special Region-3 Northern Shan State. The meeting ended at 1525. The plenary session of the National Convention will continue tomorrow.

Convention Commission Holds 64th Meeting 5 Apr

BK0604090093 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] The 64th meeting of the National Convention Convening Commission [NCCC] was held at 1600 this evening at the NCCC meeting hall. It was attended by Lieutenant General Myo Nyunt, NCCC chairman; Lt. Gen. Maung Thint and Brigadier General Myo Thant, NCCC vice chairmen; and commission members.

Lt. Gen. Myo Nyunt delivered an opening address. Next, commission members held discussions on work done by the National Convention Convening Work Committee and the National Convention Convening Management Committee, and preparations being made for the holding of the national convention plenary meeting.

Lt. Gen. Myo Nyunt delivered a closing speech and the meeting came to a close at 1900.

Allegations of PRC Using Naval Base Disputed

BK0504142193 Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 18 Mar 93 p 2

["Thet-le and Shwethway Discussions" column by Warazein: "...With a total disregard for truth"]

[Text] Thet-le: Come on Ko Shwethway. Let us discuss today about a certain foreign broadcasting station which has as usual been meddling with other people's affairs; and this time they have been doing a lot of meddling so that two of our nearest and biggest neighbors, China and India, would misunderstand one another; they have been meddling so that these two countries will begin to become suspicious of one another and thence they may not be able to get along with one another.

Shwethway: And what about our country, is it not included?

Thet-le: Of course we are! Of course it is in connection with our country that these two countries are being drawn into this matter.

Shwethway: This broadcasting station really takes the cake in meddling in other people's affairs and in creating trouble! Come on tell me what has this broadcasting station been doing to cause all this trouble?

Thet-le: Well, in the first week of February, that broadcasting station broadcast something like this....

Shwethway: What did it broadcast?

Thet-le: What the broadcasting station said was this: It broadcast that the Chinese Government has been building up its naval strength so that it would be able to dominate both the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean.

Shwethway: This is the kind of propaganda which is designed to cause anxiety in India that the Chinese Navy would dominate the Indian Ocean!

Thet-le: That's perfectly right. This is deliberate propaganda mongering. This is meant to cause anxiety not only in India but also in the Southeast Asian countries which are between the two bodies of water.

Shwethway: I think China is bound to react to this kind of action which was designed to cast aspersions about its intentions regarding South Asia and Southeast Asian countries.

Thet-le: Of course it won't take it lying down. Because of this kind of propaganda even a large country in the Far East such as Japan is bound to become anxious. What they have tried to do in the broadcast is in fact to destabilize the entire region.

Shwethway: They are really mischief makers, aren't they? And now what did they broadcast about our country?

Thet-le: Well, what they said was that during the past few years the Chinese Government had increased its influence economically, militarily, and politically over Myanmar [Burma]. And the broadcast further said that certain observers had commented that at this rate Myanmar will either become an autonomous region under Chinese influence or else a suzerain state under the Chinese.

Shwethway: And this use of the term some 'observers', these observers are actually no others but those who are of the same kind; there is really no difference at all. They are actually beans from the same pod. In any case what do you think of that Myanmar, they say, is to be under Chinese's hands. This is a deliberate attempt designed to make us misunderstand the intentions of China and it is also tailored to create misunderstanding between our two countries, isn't that so?

Thet-le: That's right! And not only that. They have also broadcast things which if believed would make China and Myanmar appear to be rogues in the eyes of the world.

Shwethway: And how is that?

Thet-le: Well, what the broadcast has said is that there are certain similarities between the Government of China and the government of our country. This is a deliberate attempt on the part of the broadcasting station to make us two countries appear to be rogues in the eyes of the international community. What the broadcasting station is trying to do is cast aspersions upon the action our two respective countries had to take to bring things under control when anarchistic conditions emerged some time ago. It is a deliberate and vicious kind of exaggeration which makes a mountain out of a mole hill or a turtle out of a bed-bug.

Shwethway: Ha ha ha. What a big joke. These fellows at that broadcasting station are really comedians, aren't they like Moss and Kunthee in our country? Quite laughable and amusing aren't they?

Thet-le: And what's more, in talking about similarities between China and Myanmar the broadcasting station said another similarity was that we have both declared that these affairs are our own internal affairs.

Shwethway: Don't you think it would be a good idea if we introduce these guys at that broadcasting station in a comedy show?

Thet-le: And that's not all. The broadcasting station went even further. They said China would become a major power capable of dominating the two oceans if they are able to use the coasts along Myanmar for naval bases and from there they can dominate the Indian Ocean.

Shwethway: Ah so, just as we're speaking our country also comes into the picture.

Thet-le: And what the broadcasting station further said was that Myanmar was about to allow China the use of the Pathein [Bassein] Naval Base in the southwest of Myanmar and what's more the broadcasting station added that the Chinese foreign minister who recently came to Myanmar made overtures offering military assistance to Myanmar and all those things.

Shwethway: These are sheer malicious fabrications which we must reject absolutely! These in fact are baseless reports having no substance whatsoever.

Thet-le: Regarding this matter a responsible spokesman of the Chinese foreign ministry has denied outright that these are sheer fabrications; that these are malicious attempts to sow misunderstanding between neighboring nations; and that these rumors which are maliciously being spread that China is attempting to extend its influence and domination right up to the Indian Ocean are totally untrue. These denials were in fact broadcast by the same broadcasting station in the same news broadcast.

Shwethway: Oh, is that so? These fellows really take the cake, don't they? They can say and then unsay things at the moment's notice with a total disregard for truth, isn't that so?

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Minister Downplays PRC Naval Deployment Near Spratlys

BK0504131293 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 3 Apr 93 p 7

[By Sager Ahmad]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur Fri.—Malaysia is not alarmed over the recent deployment of three Chinese submarines around the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, Defence Minister Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak said today.

He said the government did not view China's redeployment of three Romeo Class conventional submarines from its North Sea Fleet to the islands as a pretext to an invasion.

As such, Malaysia would not be taking any action over the matter.

Najib said the government was sticking to its principle that the overlapping claims to the disputed islands could best be resolved through negotiations based on the principles of fairness and justice.

"We do not want the problem to overspill into a military conflict and we encourage all involved to seek a solution through negotiations based on formulas aceptable to all."

Najib was commenting on an AFP report that China had redeployed three more Romeo class conventional submarines from its North Sea Fleet to patrol the islands claimed by Malaysia, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Taiwan.

"The submarine patrols around the island do not worry us as the Chinese Navy has even placed its armada near the area" he said.

Najib was speaking at a Hari Raya [Muslim festival] gathering hosted by him in Mindef [Ministry of Defence] today. About 5,000 armed forces and civilian staff attended.

On a REUTER report that a Malaysian company was exporting eight stainless steel vessels to Libya via Singapore for making chemical weapons, Najib said he had no knowledge of it but would order an investigation.

He said the sale might be on a company-to-company basis and had nothing to do with the government.

Najib added that he did not believe local companies had the technology to build such vessels.

On the deployment of troops for the United Nation Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) in June, Najib said about three months were needed to prepare the men and acquire new equipment for the mission.

The Minister said the government would pay for the equipment first and later seek a reimbursement from the United Nations, including charges for transport.

Najib added that part of the 850 troops with the 19th Battalion of the Royal Malay Regiment (RAMD) based in Sungai Petani, Kedah would be sent by air and the rest by two Royal Malaysian Navy ships, KD [Royal Ship] Indra Sakti, and KD Mahawangsa.

Five Royal Malaysian Air Force Alouette helicopters will also provide light air support to the Malaysian troops under UNOSOM II.

He said the 19th Battalion would also be deploying Condor and Sigma armed personnel carriers during the mission, which marks the first time Malaysia is sending troops from the three services for peacekeeping and enforcement duties abroad.

Mahathir Urges 3d World To Resist Western Pressure

BK0504131493 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 3 Apr 93 p 1

[From Zainon Ahmad]

[Excerpt] Tashkent, Fri.—Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said today Third World countries, especially the small ones, must rally to ward off standards and values that the West is trying to impose on them.

The prime minister said that to be truly independent and sovereign the West must be thwarted as it was becoming more strident in demanding that others subscribe to its views regarding matters such as human rights, democracy, and workers' rights.

After the Gulf war, these powerful countries adopted under the banner of the New World Order a right to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries should the situation in those countries become too different from theirs.

"We must work together and cooperate to protect our independence," he said at a joint press conference with President Islam Karimov at the end of their meeting last night.

Dr. Mahathir said the countries of the Third World also had their own views of human rights and their own concept of democracy which were more in keeping with their environment and level of development.

"But we are weak and quite defenceless and so they can examine our records and judge them according to their standards, while we cannot do the same to them," he said.

President Karimov, who agreed with Dr. Mahathir, questioned the right of the West to impose its standards, especially on democracy, adding that "every nation, big or small, has the right to choose its way of doing things."

Dr. Mahathir also said countries of the South should be less dependent on the rich countries of the North for trade and other efforts that could help them with their development.

It was time that these countries grow to be more dependent on each other and adopt new linkages that could be more beneficial for them than if they had depended solely on the countries of the North.

He said Malaysia's trading partners had largely been rich countries such as the United States, Japan, and the European countries until it dawned on it that these countries, too, could have economic problems.

Since then, Malaysia realised the need to develop new trading partners from countries of the South and Malaysia had been fairly successful with countries of Latin America, some countries of Africa, Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. [passage omitted]

Kelantan Said Fanning 'Anti-Federal Sentiments'

BK0504131893 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 3 Apr 93

[By Shamsul Akmar]

[Text] PAS [Pan Malaysian Islamic Party]-led Kelantan Government was emulating the Sabah Government in fanning anti-federal sentiments which would only deprive the rakyat [people] of development.

When the Sabah Government decided to introduce the anti-party-hopping law, the Kelantan Government followed suit, Ghafar said.

When Sabah started fanning anti-federal sentiments, the Kelantan Government did the same, Ghafar added.

The deputy prime minister said the anti-federal stand adopted by both state governments was taken without considering the needs of the rakyat.

"But we will continue with the necessary development projects for Kelantan despite the anti-federal sentiments being fanned by the Kelantan Government and the palace.

"But the Kelantan Government should realise that its position will only deny the rakyat of development because federal officers will face problems in carrying out their duties," he added.

Speaking to reporters when met at former menteri besar [chief minister] Tan Sri Mohamed Yaacob's residence here, Ghafar said the federal government would not retaliate because the Kelantan Government would, in the end, suffer from the consequences of its own stand.

Ghafar arrived here this morning for a one-day unofficial visit.

He was commenting on newspaper reports quoting Youth and Sports Minister Senator Datuk Annuar Musa as saying that the Kelantan palace had instructed district and senior state officials to obstruct federal government activities in the state.

In the report, Annuar had alleged that the Kelantan ruler's private secretary, Fuad Hassan, gave the instruction during a meeting early last month.

Ghafar said the Kelantan palace and the PAS-led state government were the "same" as both engaged in intense politicking without much thought for the needs of the rakyat.

"The federal government will not shirk its responsibilities to provide aid to the state in the form of education, security, medical and health services, and others as stipulated in the Constitution," he said.

Ghafar said there was no need for the federal government to retaliate as the state government's actions would be its own undoing.

"If federal development projects are retarded because of the move, then the rakyat of Kelantan will suffer and this is punishment enough for the state government," he said.

Ghafar said that development projects undertaken by the federal government such as providing water and electricity supply was not for UMNO [United Malays National Organization] supporters or members only but also enjoyed by PAS supporters as well as those from other political parties.

Asked if the federal government was facing problems in implementing development projects in Kelantan, Ghafar said it had not faced any so far.

"If there are problems, it will be over land acquisition since land is a state matter.

"But we hope that with the provision in the National Land Code (NLC), which stipulates that the state government must acquire land required by the federal government for development purposes, we will not face any problems.

"However, if the state government decides to disregard the provisions in the NLC, then we will have to think up ways to overcome the problem," he added.

USNO President Agrees To Coalition With PBS

BK0604090693 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] In Sabah, USNO's [United Sabah National Organization] President Datuk Amir Kahar Tun Mustafa and the party's four other state assemblymen are expected to take their oaths tomorrow following the party's decision to form a coalition government with the ruling PBS [Parti Bersatu Sabah] in the state.

Datuk Amir Kahar will be sworn in as deputy chief minister, USNO Secretary General Akalani Abdul Rahim as full minister. The other two Penans, Salim Bachok and Kiting Haji Mohamed Ali, will be appointed assistant ministers.

Sabah chief minister, who is also PBS president, Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan, declined to comment that PBS and USNO have signed an agreement on the coalition government. However, Datuk Amir Kahar confirmed this when asked by reporters. Datuk Amir said that his party is prepared to face any consequences and is ready to be expelled from the National Front following the new development.

Military Exercises With Singapore Begin 5 Apr

BK0404143093 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1300 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] An official from the Singapore Defense Ministry said that a three-day bilateral military exercise between Malaysia and Singapore will begin in Singapore tomorrow. He said that 130 officers and men of the 15th Royal Malay Regiment will join 550 officers and men from the 1st battalion of the Singapore Infantry Regiment in the exercise. This is the fourth in a series of land exercises to promote bilateral cooperation. The exercise will include house-to-house combat.

Singapore

Ministry Says Global Stability Outlook 'Dim'

BK0204124293 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] The powerful prospects of global stability and prosperity of the coming years are not rosy. The Foreign Ministry's annual report says despite the end of the Cold War, the outlook of global stability looks dim. Leading crises in the assessment include instability in Russia, the escalating Yugoslav conflict, and the sluggish economies of industrialized countries. China's military modernization program has also been named as a cause for concern. The 1992 diplomatic report says true international cooperation and coordination is needed to overcome the problems.

Minister Comments on Trade Blocs, Protectionism

BK0404134093 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 3 Apr 93 p 48

[By Chan Hwa Loon]

[Text] The ASEAN countries would lose their credibility if the Asean Free Trade Area (AFTA) fails and becomes another version of the moribund Preferential Trading Arrangement, said Mr S. Dhanabalan. The Trade and Industry Minister said in an interview on Tuesday that the schedules put up by the ASEAN countries to implement AFTA were "a little different" from expected. But he felt that the end point would still be the same—that under the fast track the tariffs would be reduced to a minimum of 5 percent in seven to 10 years and under the normal track in 10 to 15 years.

Even as Singapore rolls back its tariffs under AFTA, it is prepared to join other free trade areas if conditions are right and if they are not inward-looking.

"We want to be involved in any move that will mean greater access to markets. NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement, would be the nearest potential free trade area, but nothing has moved yet."

He noted that although AFTA's progress was slow, the ASEAN countries had made a start and ASEAN leaders have come a long way in recognising that AFTA cannot afford to fail.

Mr Dhanabalan said he would "wait and see" as it was "still a bit early in the day" to pass judgment on AFTA.

In his view, AFTA is not significant enough yet to make ASEAN a competitive destination for foreign investments.

Tuesday's 90-minute interview—which covered issues ranging from the Singapore economy to regionalisation efforts—was Mr Dhanabalan's first with the press since he took over the Trade and Industry portfolio last December from Brig-Gen. (Res) [Brigadier General Reserve] Lee Hsien Loong.

On protectionism, the minister said most people still remembered the 1930s when world trade contracted tremendously because of tariff barriers. But there are fears among analysts that the baby boom generation in the US did not have memories of what happened then and may resort to tariff barriers to solve their present economic problems.

If they do that, "they will very soon find that they are severely burnt" as even regional trading blocs like NAFTA and the European Community (EC) had strong trade links with other economies. So, they must face up to the consequence of a significant part, or maybe a greater part, of their trade being affected if they become too inward-looking."

Mr Dhanabalan added: "I see that as a kind of a natural safety factor against an inward-looking trend. But this of course presumes that people work and think rationally and logically. Sometimes the hard reality of logic can be diverted by immediate political pressures."

Cambodia

Hun Sen Makes Statement After SNC Meeting

BK0504130193 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Statement by Hun Sen, prime minister and member of the Supreme National Council, to Cambodian 'compatriots' on 4 April—recorded]

[Text] I would like to take this opportunity to inform the clergy and my compatriots about today's meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC].

There were many issues on the agenda, however, I just want to point out what I raised at the meeting concerning the latest development of the situation. It is true that there were issues raised dealing with the massacre of both Vietnamese and Cambodian civilians. On this matter, I pointed out to the SNC, UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], and the diplomats present at the meeting that the Khmer Rouge's killing of Cambodian and Vietnamese civilians were not simply murders. The Khmer Rouge's biggest goal is to destroy the election.

As is known, the Khmer Rouge have been opposing the elections. They are very afraid that elections can be held and the ensuing results would leave the Khmer Rouge outlawed as rebels. Thus, the Khmer Rouge have to destroy the elections.

I drew the meeting participant's attention to activities taking place simultaneously on three fronts: First, military activities relating to the Vietnamese and Cambodian people and Khmer Rouge attacks against UNTAC representatives resulting in many UNTAC military and civilian officials killed or wounded. Second, the Khmer Rouge's terrorist activities inside the country, for example the simultaneous bomb explosions in Phnom Penh and in a number of other cities to create confusion. And third, the economic sabotage carried out by the Khmer Rouge and their allies. Thus, taken together these three things are not just ordinary events; they are being carried out to create a tense atmosphere to destroy the elections.

In such a situation I proposed two things to the meeting. First, UNTAC should clearly determine the military position of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF]. If the Khmer Rouge attack the people, voting stations, and UNTAC, what should our army do? Do we retreat or do we fight back? In the past when we fought back, the State of Cambodia [SOC] was accused of violating the Paris agreement and the cease-fire. If we retreat, we would be abandoning the people to the mercy of the Khmer Rouge. These areas would then be controlled by the Khmer Rouge and the people would not be able to vote. The election area would be reduced and the number of people taking part would be smaller. Take, for example, Stoung and Bavel Districts. When the Khmer Rouge attacked Bavel District, if the SOC army had withdrawn and the people retreated, then the Khmer Rouge would have gained control of that area and UNTAC would be unable to return. In Stoung District, the Khmer Rouge and their FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] allies attacked and even robbed UNTAC staff members. If the SOC army had not fought back, all these areas would have been lost; people, and UNTAC officials too, would have been killed.

I raised this issue for UNTAC, the UN secretary general, or the UN Security Council [UNSC] to clearly decide on. In the event the Khmer Rouge attacks, what should the SOC army do? Do we fight back in self-defense to also protect UNTAC, the people, and voting stations, or do we withdraw? I believe that UNTAC would not let our army retreat. However, we should clearly discuss this issue to avoid difficulties in the future with the SOC army being accused of violating the cease-fire.

To end the violence and massacre of Cambodian and Vietnamese nationals, I proposed the immediate implementation of the UN convention on the prevention and punishment of genocidal acts because what the Khmer Rouge have been doing, massacring Vietnamese communities in Kompong Chhnang, Kampot, and Siem Reap, and massacring Cambodians in Kompong Thom, falls under the category of genocidal acts as stated in the convention on the prevention and punishment of genocide. I have proposed that this be implemented.

I also informed the meeting that one cannot talk about national reconciliation without implementing this important law. National reconciliation is impossible if one side continues to kill people. If this convention is not implemented then it is futile for us to talk about freedom and human rights. Are we worthy of being defenders of the people?

So, I have proposed that UNTAC arrest Khieu Samphan immediately because he is the ringleader. In the convention, it is clearly stated: Those committing the act, those who instigate the act, and those who collaborate in it all must be arrested. Thus, the ones who instigate and their accomplices, that is, their allies, should be arrested and tried for committing genocidal acts.

I asked UNTAC: If UNTAC will not do it, can the state authority of the exiting court do it? According to an article dealing with the judiciary, it mentions the national tribunal. Now the Cambodian national tribunal has already been legally acknowledged. This tribunal should function under UNTAC supervision. Therefore, this court can issue a warrant for the arrest of Khieu Samphan and other Khmer Rouge leaders for trial. Only when we solve the problem at its root can we prevent genocide in Cambodia.

With consideration given to the situation in which national reconciliation is to be achieved, I and my colleagues, like many foreigners, have abandoned for now the demand to try Pol Pot, Ieng Sary, Khieu Samphan, and Ta Mok for their massacre of the people from 1975 to 1978-79. But now we cannot tolerate this because the Khmer Rouge's recent violations were genuine genocidal acts as stated in the convention for the prevention and punishment of genocide. Thus this issue cannot be ignored. Therefore, I will propose this to the Cambodian tribunal, to the state authority of the Cambodian court, to review the competence of this court to see whether it can issue warrants for the arrests of Khieu Samphan and other leaders. This is an issue related to the competence of the tribunal. As one attending the meeting and a defender of the people, I have to propose this issue to the court.

This is an important point I have to raise. Right now nobody is defending the people except for the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and the SOC, of which I am the representative in the SNC. The Khmer Rouge allies—FUNCINPEC and Son Sann—dare not denounce the Khmer Rouge for subversive activities and murdering people. If they do, then they would only do it in whispers because they are afraid that the Khmer Rouge will drop them as allies.

Therefore, only the CPP and the SOC, with me as the SNC representative, must raise this issue because this is not a child's game. The loss of the lives of hundreds of people, of dozens of people at a time cannot be considered an ordinary matter. We have always opposed genocide since the beginning. We cannot allow this genocide to continue a moment longer, even if I am accused of being intransigent and inflexible in national reconciliation. I have been flexible already. However, I cannot close my eyes to the death of Cambodians as well as foreign residents in Cambodia, including UNTAC representatives. I must raise this issue.

Concerning the economic problems, today there was a heated argument, particularly between Khieu Samphan and myself. UNTAC supports efforts to get the SNC to agree to a World Bank loan to Cambodia, which the Khmer Rouge and their allies have previously opposed. Today the efforts remain unsuccessful; the Khmer Rouge categorically oppose the loan. However, other parties are still hesitating and indecisive. This will be discussed later.

Concerning the riel currency, I would like to thank UNTAC for highly appreciating our government's efforts over the past few weeks to restore market stability and the riel currency. This was considered a success by our government in maintaining stability in socioeconomic life and in people's daily lives in order to move toward elections.

At the meeting I spoke clearly about the recent economic sabotage. Even UNTAC has specified that over the past few months the SOC has not put bank notes into circulation. I informed the meeting that not only were bank notes not printed but they were also in fact being collected. However, because of economic sabotage, panic was created in the market. This panic has seriously affected the people's lives. I told the meeting and various parties that if they want to win in the elections, do not do this because the pressure of economic sabotage on Hun Sen would result in the Cambodian people's suffocation. Pressure on the SOC suffocates the people. If you want to win in the elections, do not do this. All over the world, no party does this.

When people compete, they do so on the basis of competence, stressing the good things they have done for the people and their achievements in order to convince the people and win their trust. They stress their ability to protect the people and publicize their policy toward various problems. Show your competence to the people. If you are good, you will receive votes. If you want to win by toppling a ruling party through pressure on the government to make people suffer, then you will lose. This is my advice to these parties. No country in the world does this. I also said that this was what the Khmer Rouge did in 1975. I said Khieu Samphan did this in February 1975. At that time bank notes were circulated in liberated zones and the riel bank notes of Marshal Lon Nol regime were destroyed. And in April 1975, the currency was abolished. Now this is happening again. You cannot win because the riel currency has become the people's means of transaction. The Cambodian people can no longer exchange rice for fish and vegetables for material.

I also asked the meeting about what I should do. Khieu Samphan was leading Democratic Kampuchea from 1975 to 1979. No money was used. There was no money in his regime. His regime could not have survived until 1993—14 years later. Had the Pol Pot regime survived these past 14 years, I said, we may not be meeting now at the Chan pavilion. Everyone would have been dead. Thus, the Pol Pot regime's political life must come to an end. We were the ones ending it. What happens after ending it? Should the people be left to carry on living that way—exchanging rice for fish—or should money be printed and used? Now money is in circulation.

I would like to point out that this money is 10 years older than the SNC. It was established before the SNC. UNTAC has stated that the riel should be consolidated. UNTAC is not involved or interested in money exchange. What is important is that UNTAC appreciates the riel currency. So, I would like to thank UNTAC for clearly stating its position. UNTAC is also concerned that if the economy and the currency is allowed to crumble then it will result in confusion and fighting. The people would then suffer. This would provide an opportunity for the genocidal regime to return. So, it is clear now that the riel currency will continue to circulate. No one can reject it. Those rejecting it are on Pol Pot's side.

Thus, I have told these parties not to carry on this economic sabotage. I have told UNTAC that I acknowledge that UNTAC's arrival in Cambodia did not cause the riel's devaluation. However, UNTAC should clearly acknowledge that it has reduced the people's confidence in the riel currency. No country has experienced the circulation of two or three currencies—riel, dollar, and Thai baht. This has forced the government to face problems. No country in the world uses foreign currencies inside its territory.

If I had to arrest someone, it would have to be UNTAC. This is difficult to do. Thus, I have asked that UNTAC understand this problem. Once UNTAC leaves, no one will use dollars in Cambodia. The riel currency will have to be used. UNTAC will not be here forever. No one can change the currency. Let me say that printing and changing bank notes are not small matters. The cost of printing money is not small. In order to have 100 million riel worth of bank notes, how many million dollars are needed? This is not like printing lottery tickets, the way the Khmer Rouge did in 1975 for show. Money printing is done with a circulation guarantee, and it is not child's play. I do not think that the Cambodian people can carry rice from the rice fields to the market and exchange it for fish. The value of the riel currency still exists, be it in the 5- riel, 10-riel, 20-riel, or 50-riel denominations.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform my compatriots that although these notes are not now in circulation, they still retain their exchange value. The state does not consider these notes as worthless. For example, five 20-riel notes can be exchanged for a 100-riel note. When a good opportunity arises, the government will exchange these notes, which are no longer in circulation, for bigger or newer notes, but not with currency other than the riel.

As I have just said, 10 old 10-riel notes can be exchanged for one new 100-riel note. Therefore, compatriots, do not tear these notes apart or burn them because they still have an exchange value. This is our sweat and blood. The notes should not be allowed to lose their value the way it did when the Khmer Rouge eliminated money in 1975. If we do this, we will only be destroying ourselves. We have worked our land hard to earn 10,000 riel. This should be able to buy at least a shirt for a child. If you believe others and burn these notes yourselves, you are only destroying yourselves and your property. You should therefore demand the right to use the riel currency because it is the legal tender for the people's wealth. Those instigating the nonuse of money should be punished in accordance with the law. Compatriots should immediately report to the police and competent authorities those who go around instigating people not to use the money so that they can be arrested and punished. Otherwise 10,000, 20,000, 100,000, or 200,000 riel in our pockets would have no value whatsoever. Therefore, the use of the riel currency and the demand for the right to use it is the direct benefit of each individual. No other currencies can replace the riel. UNTAC will not be here forever.

After talks with UNTAC, it was found that UNTAC will leave Cambodia by August at the latest. Once UNTAC leaves, there will be no dollars for UNTAC to use. The riel will be used. Therefore, the riel continues to have value. Nobody can destroy it, except if the CPP loses in the elections and the Khmer Rouge returns, in which case not only will the riel vanish but also the people will perish. As long as Heng Samrin, Chea Sim, and Hun Sen are still around in the country with the CPP and the SOC, no one can obliterate the people's legitimate ownership the way it was done in 1975.

We are very obstinate on this issue; to hell with what others say about us. We do this in order to protect the lives, ownership, freedom, and professions of the people. This is the issue I want to inform you about on this occasion. Thank you.

Khieu Samphan Calls Election 'Theatrical Farce'

BK0604065193 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 5 Apr 93

["Address by His Excellency Khieu Samphan, chairman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea and member of the Supreme National Council, SNC, at the SNC meeting in Phnom Penh on 4 April, confirming the Party of Democratic Kampuchea's stance not to take part in the unjust UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia elections"—read by announcer]

[Text] Respected Prince: UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] election campaign has been scheduled to start on 7 April. I think it is necessary to inform you and the SNC, the five permanent members, and the UN Security Council, and to confirm once again that the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] cannot take part in UNTAC's election campaign and also cannot participate in the UNTAC election. Our people and the international community are already aware of the reason for this.

The PDK continues to respect and negotiate for the correct and comprehensive implementation of the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement. The PDK will take part in the election only when the Paris agreement has been respected and implemented and the election held within the framework of the Paris agreement. In the past, the Paris agreement has not been adhered to or implemented; this UNTAC election is held in a situation in which Vietnamese aggressor forces are everywhere in Cambodia; there is no verification that all types of aggressor forces are withdrawn from Cambodia; and there is no neutral political atmosphere, no peace, and no security.

There are only three more days before UNTAC election campaign is due to start while the situation in Phnom Penh and townships all over the country is deteriorating daily. Recently Vietnam openly and insolently declared in front of UNTAC and the international community that it will not take back a few Vietnamese soldiers arrested by UNTAC. This is Vietnam's way of telling the world that it is the master in Cambodia; it maintains its aggressor forces in Cambodia and will absolutely not pull out of the country. UNTAC does not know how to deal with this insolence.

The Vietnamese administration has also insolently rejected the reasonable and correct proposal of the prince head of state and SNC chairman calling for all Vietnamese settlers to return to Vietnam and let the Cambodian people live peacefully on Cambodian territory. This is clear evidence showing that Vietnam continues to carry on its act of aggression through a different form, that is committing aggression against Cambodia through the influx of Vietnamese nationals into the country as part of the Vietnamization of Cambodia process. Vietnam will further dispatch Vietnamese nationals in greater numbers following the UNTAC election, which has legitimized the regime, Vietnam's puppet.

As for Vietnam's Phnom Penh puppets, they too are getting more and more insolent, like their masters. They have been boasting that they will win with or without an election and that they will win with a big or small number of votes. They have even insolently said that they will smash FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] if the latter wins. They even dare to warn people not to forget examples in some countries in which parties winning the election were smashed or jailed, and so on.

On the military battlefield, Vietnam and its puppets have intensified activities to attack Cambodian national resistance forces, particularly Democratic Kampuchea's forces. The Cambodian national resistance forces and the Cambodian people have many times thwarted and routed the Vietnamese and their puppets who still struggle to gather forces to launch attacks. The Cambodian national resistance forces and the Cambodian people will certainly deal the Vietnamese and their puppets further serious blows.

Over the past few days the situation has however been increasingly tense day by day in Phnom Penh and in various provinces where the people as well as puppet soldiers have expressed their anger toward the Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets and also the useless Riel bank notes. They have also smashed the statue installed in front of Vat Botum monastery by Vietnam to glorify its Indochinese federation.

All this further confirms more clearly to the world that UNTAC's election is just a theatrical farce to hand over Cambodia to Vietnam, the aggressor. It is simply a farce to legitimize the puppets Vietnam installed in Phnom Penh since 1979. During the coming election campaign there will be more evidence showing that this UNTAC election is a gross violation of the Paris agreement and a gross violation of the Cambodian people's right to self-determination.

On this issue, only three days before the official UNTAC election campaign begins, we think that political parties that are not puppets of Vietnam are facing the following complex problems: Can their parties carry out their election campaign? If they do take part in this campaign, what do they talk about? What stance do they take concerning the issues vital to the survival of our nation and people? For example, the issues of old and new Vietnamese aggressor forces all over Cambodia; our nation's current loss of independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; old and new Vietnamese settlers plundering our people's land, fish, and timber; refugees who have returned home after waiting for 13 years in camps in Thailand and who are suffering in refugee camps in their own country; and the issue of refugees returning home only to find that their land and rice fields have been confiscated by the Vietnamese or expropriated by Vietnam's puppets. Furthermore, all kinds of accusations have been leveled at these refugees who are called misled persons, and so on.

It is obvious that these parties could not address all the issues in the above questions. In such a situation, what is the meaning of their participation in UNTAC election? Does taking part in this election not mean collusion with the Vietnamese aggressors and collaboration to betray the nation? I hope that these parties would not take part in this betrayal. I firmly believe that these parties will withdraw in a timely fashion from UNTAC election in order to join our people in rural areas, in Phnom Penh, and in other towns, who are appealing to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, our nation's leader, to start a second royal crusade to win back Cambodia's independence and territorial integrity so that the Cambodian people live peacefully the way they did in (?1969-70).

On this occasion, please allow me to appeal to the world to reconsider the process since the signing of the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement to see whether this was in accordance with the Paris agreement or not. If the process blindly proceeds, what would be the result? Would it solve the problem and restore peace and security to Cambodia? Would it help restore peace, security, and stability in this region?

It is my view that if one continues to proceed along this path, it would be a great mistake. It runs counter to the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement, the UN Charter, Cambodia and the Cambodian people, the cause for regional peace and stability, and the history of Cambodia and that of the world.

UN: Khmer Rouge Attacked Bulgarian Peacekeepers

BK0604101293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0922 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 6 (AFP)—The radical Khmer Rouge kept up their assault against Bulgarian soldiers serving with UN peacekeeping forces in Cambodia with an overnight machine-gun attack that left one soldier partially paralyzed, a UN spokesman said Tuesday.

Attacks on UN peacekeepers have become a nightly occurrence ahead of a visit of UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali on Wednesday. Four peacekeepers have been killed so far and several critically injured.

Khmer Rouge guerrillas around midnight Monday sprayed machine-gun fire at a sentry post of the Bulgarian peacekeeping contingent, some 70 kilometers (43 miles) northwest of Phnom Penh, UN spokesman Eric Falt said.

The attack occurred in a location just a few kilometers (miles) from where three Bulgarians were shot dead by Khmer Rouge guerrillas who had been invited to dine with the peacekeepers last Friday, Falt said.

One Bulgarian soldier was shot three times in the abdomen, damaging his spinal cord and paralyzing him from the waist down, Falt said. "There doesn't appear to be any motive" for the attack, he added.

The soldier, who was not identified, was taken to a hospital in Bangkok for treatment early Tuesday, he said.

The Bulgarians returned fire in the attack. It was the sixth incident in which UN peacekeepers have engaged in self-defense combat over the past 10 days.

"As a result of this attack, all military units are directed to increase vigilence and enhance security measures and procedures," the spokesman said. "Armed bodies of (non-UN) troops are not allowed in or near UN positions."

Last Friday night, a Khmer Rouge major and two soldiers came for dinner at the Bulgarian platoon and opened fire after having a pleasant meal, Falt said. Three Bulgarians were killed and three were injured, two of them critically.

A letter from UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) chief Yasushi Akashi to nominal Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan asked for the major to be handed over to UN supervision immediately.

"Our investigation has produced irrefutable evidence that these treacherous murders were carried out by men under the command of Major Don and his immediate superiors," the letter said.

"I therefore request you to hand over Major Don and the other members of his unit ... to the custody of UNTAC so that criminal procedures can be instituted against them."

The letter finished assuring Khieu Samphan of his "highest consideration."

Falt said the Khmer Rouge guerrillas, if handed over, would be put in a soon-to-be opened UNTAC jail.

Two other prisoners, including a Khmer Rouge defector who confessed to massacring ethnic Vietnamese and a Phnom Penh Government policeman charged with murdering a political opponent, will also be transferred to the jail. UNTAC has not been able to try any suspects because Cambodian courts have refused to hear the cases.

A UN Security Council resolution passed in New York on Monday called for all Cambodian factions to guarantee the safety of UN personnel.

It asked Butrus Ghali to "report urgently to the council on the circumstances of these murderous acts and the responsibility for them."

Armed men believed to be Khmer Rouge guerrillas have recently stepped up their attacks on a Bangladeshi battalion based in northwest Siem Reap province.

"The Security Council was apparently not listened to" by the Khmer Rouge, Falt said.

Separately, Falt said old Russian-made Mi-17 helicopters that have spent too many hours in service will be phased out following a helicopter crash that injured 18 visiting European journalists.

"The safety procedures will be increased" for helicopters flying with UNTAC, he said.

The crash on March 20 was caused by a misalignment of the tail rotor drive shaft, Falt said. All 20 Mi-17s used by UNTAC were inspected and 10 have gone back into service.

Helicopters are crucial in moving people and equipment for the UN mission with much of Cambodia's terrain impassable by land.

BANGKOK POST Correction to Hun Sen Article

BK0604102393

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English on 6 April on page 2 supplies the following correction to the item headlined "Hun Sen 'Reluctant To Intervene' for Vietnamese", which was published in the 5 April East Asia DAILY REPORT, page 24:

"Due to errors in the processing of copy, statements made for background purposes were attributed to Mr Yasushi Akashi, the head of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), in the story published on Monday, April 5, under the headline: Hun Sen 'doesn't want to be Suchinda of Cambodia.'

"We wish to clarify that Mr Akashi did not make the statement attributed to him in paragraph five concerning Mr Hun Sen. Nor did he make the observation about former Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun, as was suggested in the second half of paragraph eleven.

"Both were background observations made by the writer for the benefit of readers. We apologize for any misunderstanding that the mistake in attribution may have caused."

Hanoi, Phnom Penh, UNTAC Said 'Entangled'

BK0504122593 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Unattributed commentary: "Is the Situation—in Which the Yuon Puppets' Riel Bank Notes Are Unacceptable; Soldiers, Policemen, and Officials Are Attacking the Puppet Regime; and the People All Over the Country Are Carrying Out Minor Revolts—a Rope To Hang the Yuon Aggressors, the Puppet Leaders, and UNTAC?"]

[Text] The situation that has worsened rapidly due to the worthlessness of the puppets' riel bank notes and the problem of ensuring people's bread and butter has affected the puppet forces, both military and civilian. How can the issue of currency that concerns the country, the Yuon [derogatory term for Vietnamese] puppets' regime, UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], and the elections, as well as the Yuon and the alliances inside and outside UNTAC be resolved? It is unlikely that the situation can be settled.

The masses have stepped up efforts to harass the Yuon and their puppets as well as the alliances inside and outside UNTAC. The people, joined by the puppet soldiers and policemen, have risen up against and attacked the Yuon and their puppets in Phnom Penh and various provinces. Traders, small and major alike, have stopped accepting the puppet bank notes, factories have been closed, villas and hotels belonging to puppet leaders and foreign businessmen have also been closed or left vacant. This is because foreigners have all fled to Bangkok, Singapore, Australia, or Hong Kong. Joint ventures concluded by foreigners and the puppets have been canceled because the puppet regime is seen as on its way to collapse. Nobody dares conclude contracts with them. The crisis caused by the worthlessness of the puppet riel bank notes has occurred in the important city of Phnom Penh and has affected small and major merchants and the puppet leadership itself. Moreover, the crisis has spread to rural areas, townships, provinces, districts, communes, and villages throughout the country. Consequently, the crisis has affected the organizational systems and leadership of the Yuon, the puppets, and the alliances inside and outside UNTAC.

The general public has clearly seen that the $2 billion in funding for UNTAC that has been deified and used by UNTAC to decide Cambodia's destiny has not worked and the plan is about to tumble. The $2 billion that the Yuon aggressors, Yuon puppets, and the alliances inside and outside UNTAC plan to use to do away with the Cambodian nation and people and the Cambodian national resistance forces has now turned into a weapon against them. This is a situation in which the stomachs of the people and puppet soldiers, policemen, and officials are affected and it has generated robberies and shootings of merchants, puppet leaders, and Yuon, as well as attacks on UNTAC's stations and cars, and so on. The people and puppet soldiers, policemen, and officials are now becoming anxious and are so terribly furious that no one can deter them. The soldiers and policemen have not carried out large-scale attacks and the people have not conducted large-scale revolts against the puppet regime because they can easily be cracked down upon by the Yuon and their puppets. The soldiers, policemen, officials, and people have used guerrilla tactics to attack the puppet regime: They have ridden on bicycles or motorcycles and tossed grenades at special Yuon units, the Yuon in bars, and so on.

The situation has now become increasingly serious. So how will the Yuon puppets, the Yuon, and UNTAC solve it? Alas, the Yuon and the puppets can never find a solution.

Where are Hun Sen, Chea Sim, Heng Samrin, Pol Saroeun, and other puppet leaders now sleeping? Their wives and children have packed their belongings and are prepared to flee the country. This event has dealt a direct blow to the leadership of the puppets and Yuon. It is a result of the most awful policy of the Yuon aggressors and their puppets and the UNTAC chieftains. They are now entangled. So, how will they be able to undo the knots that tighten around their necks?

Paper Reviews Party Platforms

BK0404021293 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Apr 93 p A8

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon in Phnom Penh]

[Text] Do you want a Cambodia where everything is just like in the US? How about a secret plan to expand Cambodia's area by 2,000 square kilometres without going to war? Or, better still, do you want a Cambodiia with drivers who respect traffic laws? Listen to any of the 20 parties registered in Cambodia and the chances are you'll hear either outrageous plans to transform Cambodia or textbook ideas of how to turn an agrarian society into a newly-industrialized country.

Some of the party platforms are amateur and out of touch with reality; others have serious ideas but they would be difficult to implement.

These proposals come from Cambodians who have fled overseas and made a fortune in the West—mainly the United States and Europe. The Paris peace agreement has allowed them to return and take part in the upcoming election.

Prum Neakareach, of the Mulinaka and Naktaorsu Khmer for Freedom Party, known as the Monath Party, said voters would support his party's "secret plan" to expand Cambodia's borders by 2,000 squ km without invading any neighbouring countries. Unfortunately, Prum has never explained just how this could come about.

Another original idea of Prum's party is to use Mekong River silt as fertilizer for farm land. These two programmes, he said, made his party distinguishable from other political parties.

The most bizarre party is the Republic Democracy Party of Kampuchea (Redek), with its screaming banner that declares, "Communism is Evil". Redek's party flag resembles the US flag. It features red and white stripes with a white image of Angkor Wat on a blue background in the upper left-hand corner.

"Cambodian people love the American flag as much as they love the American dollar. It is the best currency and the best lifestyle in the world," said Redek's 52-year-old president, Kim Kethavy.

The only way to save Cambodia, he asserted, was to adopt an American-style system to help Cambodia develop as rapid as possible.

"The first thing I will do when I become leader is drop to my knees, bow my head to the ground and beg the US government to give us economic assistance," Kim said.

With the notable exception of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP], the majority of political parties mention the issue of Vietnamese settlers in Cambodia in their platforms. Some want the settlers out; others want to settle the problem more amicably. Key parties such as the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party [BLDP], under Son Sann, and Funcinpec [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] have become more flexible after years of taking a tough position on the issue of Vietnamese settlers.

According to Ieng Mouli, the BLDP's secretary general, Vietnamese who came to Cambodia for humanitarian or economic reasons should be allowed to stay if they respect Cambodian law. Those who were connected with the military, with terrorist activities or intelligence work should be "invited" to go back to Vietnam.

Cham Sing, president of the Neutral Democratic Party of Cambodia, said that the Vietnamese issue could be settled through proper immigration laws. He said foreign forces were not allowed in Cambodia under the Paris agreement, but Vietnamese civilians had the right to stay.

Prum Neakareach, of the Monath Party, said all Vietnamese in Cambodia should be put in special camps until the elections are over to prevent them meddling with the poll.

The most professional and well-prepared party platform comes from the Action for Democracy and Development [ADD] Party headed by president Chak Saroeun.

The party's immediate goal is a democratic regime that respects human rights and fundamental liberties. The party has also proposed a 134-page draft constitution which calls for a liberal democratic system based on pluralism and governed by a parliamentary regime.

Like the ADD, Funcinpec's manifesto calls for a democratic government characterized by "multi-partyism" and a separation of the powers of the executive, legislative and judicial bodies. It also calls for a "free-enterprise market-oriented economic system".

Against all of these party platforms stands the Cambodian People's Party, which continues its pledge to prevent the return of the "genocide" regime of the Khmer Rouge.

Prum Sokha, first Deputy Chief of the CPP Cabinet, said the general population recognized the CPP's contributions to national reconstruction and respected the CPP and Phnom Penh's efforts towards national reconciliation through participation in the peace process.

The party has adopted new economic policies and reforms within a democratic, multiparty system.

Cambodians are faced with a clear choice when they go to the polls between May 23 and 28—to choose a party that has stayed with them through the highs and lows of the past 14 years or one of the 19 alternative parties.

UNTAC Officer Details Preparations for Polls

BK0404022893 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Apr 93 p A8

[Interview with Reginald Austin, UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, UNTAC, Chief Electoral Officer, by THE NATION correspondent—place, date not not given]

[Text] United Nations officials in Cambodia have expressed confidence that the scheduled election in May will be "fool-proofed" to ensure a "free and fair" outcome when registered voters go to the polls.

"The situation is under control. There is no possibility of fiddling around," said Prof Reginald Austin, director of the electoral component, in an interview with THE NATION.

In preparing for the May 23-28 election, the United Nation Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac) has employed about 50,000 local people to help with voter registration and manning the estimated 2,000 polling stations throughout the country.

There are fears that the election will not be "free and fair" and that the incumbents will be able to take advantage of existing structures to rig it.

Austin, a Zimbabwean, said such fears are unfounded as the Untac is well aware of the situation and has devised all possible measures to prevent any mishaps that could occur in the lead-up to and during the election.

He said all electoral materials are being printed in Canada under special protection. "The quality of the ballot paper is as good as that of banknotes," he said, adding that these materials would be shipped right before the election.

All 20 political parties contesting in the May election were last week shown a sample ballot, which will include party names and symbols.

Although Cambodia has gone to the polls several times before, this UN-sanctioned election is the first time it is likely to be considered free and fair.

In addition, there will be 14,000 police and civilians to help during the election, including 1,500 international officials who have had experience with elections in various countries.

Untac, since November last year, has registered for the election 4.7 million Cambodians, out of a total of 8.8 million. Only 2 per cent were objected to by vanous political parties, which said that they could be Vietnamese settlers.

Under the electoral law, ethnic Vietnamese are eligible to vote if their parents were born in Cambodia. The Khmer Rouge has claimed that 1.2 million voters registered are ethnic Vietnamese living in Cambodia.

The Khmer Rouge, which has decided to stay out of the peace process, has been targeting the Vietnamese. In past weeks, more than 60 Vietnamese, including children, living around the Tonle Sap were killed. At least a thousand Vietnamese have left Cambodia.

Voter's ballots will be dropped into metal boxes, sealed by number and guarded by Untac military and police. The counting of votes will take place in the provincial offices, not in district offices or polling stations.

"We want to ensure voting secrecy," said Austin, who has electoral experience in Namibia.

He said that by opening the boxes in the provincial offices, the identification of voters in particular districts would be protected. "Nobody can tamper with the ballot boxes," he said.

Since last August the Untac has been educating people both in urban and rural areas on how to vote. Untac has printed posters, done radio programmes and videos as well as comic books to promote the election.

"We are watching every aspect to ensure that it is free and fair," Austin said.

During the political campaign, which will begin on Wednesday, political parties are allowed to canvas for votes, publicize the party's name or symbol and recruit new party members.

Political parties will be able to organize meetings on private property. They can print and distribute material relating to their parties and can also broadcast political information over radio and TV.

But they cannot organize political meetings or disseminating political material in public places.

Austin also dismissed the attitude that a peasant does not know how to vote or understand the democratic process. "I have see (other) illiterate peoples using their vote. Cambodians are not that different," he said.

Cambodians, he said, have registered to vote because they want to see the election determine who will control state power instead of fighting each other.

"People who have suffered 25 years of war will grab the opportunity of peace, the so-called miracle of democracy. Their hopes should be taken senously. We are not only moving from war to peace, but we are also moving from totalitarianism to democracy," he said. "Cambodians have hope."

Meeting Urges 'Strictest Control' on Private Banks

BK0104100193 Phnom Penh NOKORBAL PRACHEACHON in Cambodian 23 Mar 93 pp 1, 7

["Solution to the 50-Riel Note Incident: A Headache for the Government"]

[Text] A working consultation to solve the current economic difficulty was held on the afternoon of 17 March at the office of the Ministry of National Security under the chairmanship of His Excellency Say Chhum, deputy prime minister of the State of Cambodia [SOC]. Present at the meeting were representatives of various institutions concerned, such as the National Defense, National Security, Trade, and Finance Ministries, and the National Bank. They intensely discussed the country's economic situation, which is experiencing a serious deficit, particularly the problems where 50-riel notes have been rejected by the marketplace.

The discussion and exchange of opinions focused mainly on this negative phenomenon. It was agreed that the problem has resulted from the state's failure to control the supply of currency, in addition to the latest strategy of the enemy—attacks in the economic field, for they have been unable to hurt the SOC either politically or militarily. They therefore deem it necessary to use this strategy in an attempt to topple the SOC with the tactics of blocking foreign aid and smothering it through rejection of the riel currency. At the same time, the Khmer Rouge are settling their payments in Thai baht and using Thai banks in Phnom Penh to create confusion.

Besides, as far as the people are concerned, they have worries about the post-election situation, the uncertainty of the country's situation then, and the possibility that changes might occur thereafter. The people seem to be reluctant toward the new government and afraid it might decide to use a new currency—that is, the currency of the Khmer Rouge.

Basing themselves on these causes, the meeting participants adopted a number of strict measures to block the current phenomenon in a timely manner so as to give moral reassurances to the people. They laid strong emphasis on the need to impose the strictest control on the state's financial institutions and all private banking companies which are investing in the country, and to determine the sources of the economic sabotage maneuvers conjured up by the enemies in their attempt to torpedo next May's general elections.

Indonesia

UN Special Envoy Comments on E. Timor Visit

BK0604110193 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0907 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Dili, E. Timor, Apr. 06 (OANA/ANTARA)—Results of the current visit of UN secretary general's special envoy Amos Wako to East Timor are not meant for publication despite requests by certain members of the European Community (EC).

Wako told the press here Tuesday that his three-day visit to the youngest province of Indonesia is aimed at collecting inputs and updating data to smoothen the tasks of the UN secretary general to settle the so-called East Timor issue.

I know there are requests by certain EC members to publish the results of my visit, but I will not do so because everything I have will be for Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali only, he said. He further said that he will not make any recommendations on the East Timor issue to the Indonesian Government because such things will solely depend on the policies of the UN chief.

East Timor, formerly a Portuguese colony for over 400 years, has become Indonesia's 27th province since 1976 after its people exercised their self-determination process a year earlier.

Wako and delegation which includes Director for International Organizations, Foreign Ministry, Hadi Wayarabi and five UN officials arrived here Monday. His first day in East Timor was among others marked by a meeting with Governor Jose Osorio Abilio Soares and the younger sister of the former leader of the Fretilin [Revolutionary Front for an Indepedent East Timor] Security Disturbing Movement, Jose Alexandre "Xanana" Gusmao.

Xanana is now on trial here with charges which include efforts to organize rebellions and illegal possession of firearms. These charges carry a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

Wako described his meeting with Soares as "satisfactory," saying that his meeting with Xanana's sister Armandina Maria Gusmao and her husband Gilman dos Santos was also beneficial. He said he was assigned by Butrus Butrus-Ghali to check the reports on whether or not the Indonesian Government had maltreated those involved in the Nov. 12, 1991 Dili incident as well as Xanana who was captured on Nov. 20 last year.

In carrying out the assignment, he said he will also meet several East Timor Administration officials, Dili Bishop Carlos Felipe Ximenes Belo, Xanana, Mauhudu, and Mauhunu. Mauhudu (arrested early 1992) and Mauhunu (arrested last week) were also leaders of the Fretilin.

Wako, now Kenya's attorney general, first visited East Timor last year to collect inputs over the Dili incident several months earlier for the UN secretary general.

Armandina Maria Gusmao, after meeting Wako, dismissed as baseless allegations that she was maltreated by the Indonesian Government. There is no truth whatsoever in it as my husband Gilman dos Santos and I have always been well treated ever since Xanana was captured, she told newsmen.

She further said, however, that four days after Xanana's arrest she was approached by the local security officials for information on her brother's activities as well as her involvement in them. But, now everything is OK and we enjoy our freedom like any other Indonesian citizens, she said. She confirmed reports that she once tried to assist Xanana but now regrets it very much.

Armandina Maria Gusmao during the meeting with Wako also expressed the hope that the East Timor issue can be settled immediately at the UN. She said she had told Wako that East Timor has now gained a much better progress and prosperity compared to the days under Portuguese colonialism.

Minister Discusses 1992 Export Growth

BK0204040293 Jakarta TEMPO in Indonesian 20 Mar 93 p 92

[Text] Indonesia's exports again recorded an impressive growth in 1992. The country's total exports in 1992, as revealed by Trade Minister Arifin Siregar, stood at U.S. $34 billion. "Despite a drop in the value of the oil and gas at about 3 percent, the overall exports increased by 16 percent," said the trade minister after he met with President Suharto last Tuesday. As such, it is obvious that the exports increase has taken place especially from the nonoil and nongas exports.

The nonoil and nongas exports increased by 27.7 percent to U.S. $23.3 billion. The average monthly value of the nonoil and nongas exports in the last quarter of 1992 was $2 billion. "The trend shows that our exports are growing steadily," said Arifin without smiling.

As expected, textiles and ready-made garments were the top foreign currency earners at $6 billion, followed by timber-based products at $3.7 billion, and shoes at $1.1 billion. Meanwhile, last year's imports stood at $27.03 billion, so the country had a trade surplus of about $6.8 billion.

Laos

Thongsing Thammavong Leaves for DPRK, PRC Visits

BK0304144393 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Comrade Thongsing Thammavong, political bureau member of the Party Central Committee, and his entourage left Vientiane on the afternoon of 3 April for a 21-day official friendship visit to the DPRK and the PRC at the invitation of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee and the Communist Party of China Central Committee respectively.

Thongsing Thammavong and his delegation will spend seven days visiting the DPRK and 14 days visiting the PRC. During the periods of visit to each country, the Lao high-level delegation will meet and exchange experiences on party organizational improvement and the improvement of cadres with leaders of the Party Central Committees of the two host countries. On the same occasion, The Lao delegation will also visit economic zones and a number of production and cultural establishments in both countries.

The visits to Korea and China by Thongsing Thammavong and the delegation will significantly contribute to the gradual strengthening and development of the relations of friendship and cooperation between the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the two countries, the DPRK and the PRC.

Seeing off Thongsing Thammavong and the delegation at Wattai International Airport were Khamphoui Keoboualapha, political bureau member of the Party Central Committee, deputy prime minister and chairman of the Planning and Cooperation Board of the LPDR; Comrade Chang Yong-chun, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the DPRK to Laos; and Comrade Huang Guocai, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the PRC to China; and a number of Lao high-ranking officials.

Reportage on Party, State Delegation's SRV Visit

Khamtai Receives Gold Star Order

BK0204142993 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] On the evening of 1 April in Hanoi, a ceremony was held to confer the SRV Government's Gold Star Order on Lao Party Central Committee Chairman Khamtai Siphandon. The decision to confer the decoration was made and approved by SRV President Le Duc Anh on 30 Mar in acknowledgement of Comrade Khamtai Siphandon's great contributions to the consolidation and development of the relations of friendship, special solidarity, and comprehensive cooperation between the Lao People's Democratic [LPDR] and the SRV.

On 1 April, in Hanoi, the delegation of the Vietnam-Laos Friendship Association [VLFA] led by Comrade Pham Viet Tuyen, vice chairman of the association, met with the high-level Lao party and state delegation led by Comrade Khamtai Siphandon. Comrade Pham Viet Tuyen said Vietnamese people are pleased to welcome the Lao delegation on its official visit to Vietnam. The visit is an important event which marks a milestone in the development of special comprehensive relations of friendship between the two parties, governments, and peoples of Vietnam and Laos.

Chairman Khamtai Siphandon thanked the VLFA delegation for showing the fine spirit of friendship to the Lao delegation. He also expressed his satisfaction at the development of special relations between the two parties, multiethnic peoples of Laos and brotherly Vietnamese people, and over the attentive contribution of the VLFA to the improvement of relations. Comrade Nguyen Xuan, Vietnamese ambassador to Laos, and Comrade Khamphet Phengmeuang, Lao ambassador to Vietnam were also present at the meeting.

Hanoi Rally Welcomes Delegation

BK0404092993 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1400 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] On 2 April, thousands of residents of Hanoi, acting on behalf of all Vietnamese people throughout the country, organized a grand rally to welcome the high-level Lao party and state delegation led by Comrade Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], during its official visit to Vietnam.

Attending the mass rally were Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV]; Comrade Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet; and many other leaders of the party and state of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and mass organizations in the center and in Hanoi.

The Lao delegates present included Comrade Khamtai Siphandon; Comrade Choummali Sai-gnason; Comrade Vongphet Saikeu-yachongtoua; and Comrade Khamphet Phengmeuang, Lao ambassador to Vietnam.

After an opening speech by Le At Hoi, chairman of the Hanoi Municipality People's Committee, Pham The Duyet, secretary of the Hanoi Municipality Party Committee, delivered a welcoming speech to the Lao party and state delegation.

The speech stated that today the people of Hanoi feel highly honored to represent all Vietnamese people throughout the country in welcoming the high-level Lao party and state delegation led by Comrade Khamtai Siphandon, which is paying an official visit to Vietnam. All the Vietnamese communists and people welcome Comrade Khamtai Siphandon and the delegation currently visiting Vietnam. We would like to express our congratulations on the glorious victory scored by the Lao people in the struggle for national liberation in the past as well as the restructuring for national protection and construction in the present.

After recalling the achievements of the Lao and Vietnamese peoples in the cause of national construction and protection in the past period and the relations between the two countries, Comrade Phan The Duyet said that the Vietnamese and Lao peoples have always been closely linked psychologically to each other throughout the process of existence and development. The two peoples have shared hard times and happiness, moved shoulder to shoulder in struggling for the cause of national liberation, and promoted their relations of friendship and special solidarity. The hospitality and friendship between Vietnam and Laos have been registered in the depths of the hearts and minds of each member of our two nations, thus powerfully contributing to the glorious victories of the revolutions in each country. The parties, governments, and peoples of our two countries are very delighted to see that the relations between the two countries have been continuously developed, with the glorious traditions initiated and nurtured by President Ho Chi Minh and President Kaysone Phomvihan.

Pham The Duyet went on to say that the Vietnamese people promise to try their best to improve the genuine relations with the Lao people so that they flourish endlessly in the interests of the two nations and the tasks of restructuring of the two countries, thus contributing to peace, stability, cooperation, and development in the region and the world. He stressed that the Vietnamese people admitted, with profound feeling, that their victories were closely linked to the invaluable support and assistance from the multiethnic Lao people. Vietnam would like to sincerely express its heartfelt gratitude to the LPRP, the Lao Government, and the multiethnic Lao people, for their sincere and invaluable support and assistance.

In his answering speech, Comrade Khamtai Siphandon said: During the visit to Vietnam, we were all pleased to learn that the comprehensive restructuring policy laid out by the seventh congress of the CPV has been really effectively implemented. Despite rapid and complicated changes in the world situation, under the firm, clever, clear-sighted, and efficient leadership of the CPV headed by Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi, the heroic Vietnamese people have consolidated and developed their revolutionary spirit and sense of ownership of the country; they have overcome obstacles through national liberation and have achieved many victories and results. This has created new conditions and potentials for developing the country along the socialist line.

Comrade Khamtai Siphandon praised the most fundamental and comprehensive economic achievements the Vietnamese people had marked up in 1992. He also reviewed the various achievements the people had attained in the activities of restructuring and building the nation in the past period.

On Lao-Vietnamese relations, Comrade Khamtai Siphandon noted that through the past several decades the fraternal Lao and Vietnamese peoples have been psychologically linked to each other in a spirit of love and care and special solidarity. Such relations were originated by the great President Ho Chi Minh, while the parties, states, and peoples of our two countries have fostered and improved them consistently. Despite any changes in the international arena in the past period, the traditional relations of solidarity have always remained splendid. This is because our two parties and states have always realized the importance of their relations. In this regard, both sides have attentively educated and trained their cadres, party members, combatants, people of various strata, as well as youths, to understand and protect the relations from time to time. At the same time, they have also worked to improve and renovate the methods and mechanism for sustaining the relations and cooperation suitable to certain circumstances in each period.

The gathering concluded in an atmosphere filled with the spirit of Vietnamese-Lao solidarity and friendship.

Meanwhile, on the morning of the same day, the Lao high-level party-state delegation led by Comrade Khamtai Siphandon visited the construction site of the Hoa Binh Hydroelectric Power Plant. Comrade Khamtai Siphandon praised the great work of the cadres and laborers at the construction site of the huge and modern project, which is significant for the national construction and development of Vietnam. Comrade Khamtai Siphandon also expressed hope for future Vietnamese-Lao cooperation in the construction of a hydroelectric power plant in Laos.

Delegation Ends SRV Visit, Returns

BK0404134093 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] After completing a four-day official friendship visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam from 1-4 April at the invitation of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee and the State of the SRV, the high-level party and state delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] led by Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and LPDR prime minister, returned to Laos by a special plane with glorious success.

Following the delegation's arrival in Vientiane Capital, a ceremony was held at the National Asssembly Hall to welcome home Khamtai Siphandon and the delegation in an honorable manner. Khamtai Siphandon and the delegation were welcomed by Nouhak Phoumsavan, political bureau member of the Party Central Committee and LPDR president; Saman Vi-gnaket, political bureau member of the Party Central Committee and chairman of the National Assembly; cadres and members of the

Party Central Committee; ministers and deputy ministers; and a number of officials from the SRV Embassy in Laos.

During the visit to the SRV, the Lao high-level party and state delegation held a meeting with the SRV high-level party and state in a cordial and fraternal atmosphere. The Lao delegation laid a wreath at the Ho Chi Minh mausoleum, visited the residence and office of President Ho Chi Minh and the Ho Chi Minh Museum. The Lao delegation was welcomed by a mass rally organized by thousands of people of all strata in Hanoi. The Lao visitors also visited a number of economic and cultural establishments in Hanoi, Hoa Binh Province, and the Ho Chi Minh City.

At the end of the visit, the Lao high-level delegation signed a Lao-Vietnamese joint communique with the SRV high-level party and state delegation in Hanoi.

Paper Hails Visit's Success

BK0604070693 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 6 Apr 93

[PASASON 6 April editorial: "Wholeheartedly hail the success of visit to Vietnam by our high-level party-state delegation"]

[Text] Beloved listeners, it has been a long time that the fraternal Lao and Vietnamese peoples have consistently maintained intimate ties through the process of survival and numerous developments, including in sharing weal and woe and even a grain of rice and a strand of vegetable together. The two peoples of Laos and Vietnam have stood shoulder to shoulder in the common struggle for national liberation in the past, which symbolized the development of special relations of friendship and solidarity between them. The Lao-Vietnamese friendship has been engraved in the hearts and souls of the two peoples forever, thus creating strength for the revolution in each country to win glorious victories in each period of national defense and construction.

In the current period of restructuring, it can be seen that the special relations of friendship and solidarity between the two countries have been further and continually developed and enhanced. The traditional ties between Laos and Vietnam, which were created and nutured by the late President Ho Chi Minh and President Kaysone Phomvihan, will continue to develop and grow forever.

In response to the invitation of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee [CC] and the SRV government, the high-level party-state delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] led by Comrade Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] CC and prime minister of the LPDR, paid an official friendship visit to the SRV from 1 to 4 April. This visit marked an important step in strengthening and increasing the great friendship, special solidarity, and intimate affection between Lao and Vietnamese peoples.

The talks and exchange of views between the high-level delegations of the parties and governments of the two countries constituted an importatant contribution to increasing mutual understanding and trust, thereby developing and strengthening even more closely the relations between the two parties and governments. All this clearly reflects the spirit of the 15 October 1991 and 16 August 1992 joint statements as well as the 15 February 1992 joint statement. The leaders of the two countries were satisfied to see that the traditional relations of friendship and solidarity between the two parties, states, and people of Laos and Vietnam have been closer and further strengthened. The comprehensive cooperation between the two countries has been renewed to match the capacities of each country on the basis of the principles of respecting each other's independencce, sovereignty, equality, and mutual benefits, and helping one another in the spirit of camaraderie and bringing practical results, thereby creating new conditions for socioeconomic construction in the period of comprehensive restructuring as well as new opportunities for national development in each country as clearly pointed out in the 4 April Laos-Vietnam joint communique.

In the latest joint communique, the high-level delegations of the Lao and Vietnamese parties and states clearly affirmed their determination to continuously safeguard and strengthen the traditional relations of special solidarity and comprehensive cooperation between Laos and Vietnam in the new period. The multiethnic Lao people throughout the country wholeheartedly hail the success of the friendship visit to Vietnam by our high-level party-state delegation. We are determined to do everything within our power to help in realizing and implementing the various agreements reached during the talks, thereby bringing practical results to the peoples of the two countries and further making the friendship and special solidarity between the two peoples deeper than the Mekong and Red rivers and firmer than the Truong Son mountain range.

Philippines

Romulo Says U.S. Forces Have Access to Bases

HK0604[illegible]3593 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 6 Apr 93 p 10

[Report by Jose G. Ebro]

[Text] United States forces can have access to the Philippines even without a formal access agreement, ranking Foreign Affairs officials said yesterday.

"I am extremely concerned about regional stability. We welcome a U.S. presence in the region which contributes to that," Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto Romulo told reporters yesterday.

DFA [Department of Foreign Affairs] Under Secretary Rodolfo Severino said joint RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. military exercises would continue. "The

Mutual Defense Treaty [MDT] remains in force. Our exercises are in furtherance of our commitments under the MDT. We are more able to defend each other if we train together," he said.

Mr Romulo also said he had discussed the prospect of future Balikatan [Brotherhood] exercises with former U.S. envoy Richard Solomon and "we agreed there is no need to work out a SOFA (status of forces agreement)."

Without a SOFA, there is some question about what legal regime will determine issues pertaining to criminal jurisdiction. "We have asked the Department of Justice [DOJ] to study the legal ramifications" the foreign secretary said. That could be one reason why DOJ Assistant Secretary Teresita de Castro (who served on the bases negotiating panel) was at the DFA yesterday.

Planning for the Balikatan exercises tentatively set for sometime in November is to take place this month, defense sources said. One DND [Department of National Defense] official believed that U.S. Navy Pacific Forces officials could come to Manila on U.S. Navy vessels "to test the waters." The Balikatan exercises would be the first ever conducted without a permanent U.S. presence in the country.

It seems clear that avoidance of an access agreement and a SOFA is motivated by a fear that the Philippine Senate would again try to stick its finger in the pie and complicate matters. "There is no need for Congressional concurrence," a senior Philippine diplomat maintained. "This is something which comes out of the MDT, a duly ratified treaty," he stressed.

The entry of U.S. troops would be allowed through the issuance of a note verbale, DFA sources said. There is also the likelihood that, without a SOFA, their troops will be accorded immunities "similar to those extended to technical and administrative staff" of foreign governments—somewhat less than full diplomatic immunities. That would mean any violations committed outside of their official functions would fall under the purview of the Philippine justice system.

The DND has been anxious to get the Balikatan exercises going again "to heal the rift with the U.S.," a military official said. "We need to build up good will. We need a lot of help with defense upgrading. We still need the Americans," he said.

Another DND source pointed out that continuing exercise and regular U.S. ship visits would provide opportunities for cost-free freighting of military equipment availed of under the continuing foreign military financing (FMF) and military assistance programs (MAP). "Without those regular visits and MAC (military air transport command) flights, we would have to pay the shipping costs ourselves for the equipment and we are operating under severe budgetary constraints," he said.

An Asian diplomat said it is "to the interest of the Philippines to continue training with the U.S. military." The rest of the militaries of the region have U.S. equipment and train with U.S. forces from time to time, he pointed out. "Should there be a military crisis in the region, having similar training and equipment would enhance our interoperability," the diplomat said.

Ramos Signs Electric Power Crisis Bill

HK0504061093 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0340 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Speech by President Fidel V. Ramos at the signing of the Electric Power Crisis Bill in Malacanang Palace, Manila; in English; broadcast in progress—live]

[Text] ...beloved countrymen. Amid today's headlines of thousands of jobs lost and billions of pesos and economic opportunities gone in darkness, we approved the Electric Power Crisis Bill into law.

The dedicated authority which this new law gives me is definitely much less than what I had asked for to solve once and for all our country's long standing problems of darkness, lost opportunity. Nevertheless, it could not have come sooner for us to deal head on with the existing energy crisis.

I reiterate my gratitude to the leadership of all houses of congress for the swift approval of this measure. I completely understand your caution in granting the special powers we originally asked for. But let me assure you once again, as well as the entire Philippine nation, that your concern about preserving our democracy and its moral and ethical qualities could not be more than mine. [applause]

Let us not allow unreasonable fear of the unreasonable overcome our shared vision to get our country and people out of their long period of darkness and suffering. Here in my administration, I made it clear that our energy and power sector must be developed at the rate of from 10 to 12 percent per year, from 1993 to 1998, if the Philippines is to catch up with current demand and to provide sufficient reserves to exploit the opportunities for agricultural modernization, industrial expansion, and job generation now emerging in the dynamic, fast growing region of Asia-Pacific in which we occupy a central, strategic position. We must never lose sight of our strategic, long-term interest which we now realize and intimately collected the sufficiency in power and energy. [sentence as heard]

The new law notwithstanding, we have not as of this moment moved significantly on the energy and power fronts to support our vision for faster Philippine development. I must point out that much as I do appreciate the expeditious and supportive manner with which the leaders of the Senate and the House of Representatives responded to my call, the national leadership, from all three branches of government, must continue to work more closely together and faster on the critical policies and programs that will achieve for the Philippines a truly competitive position in our part of the world.

This law gives me direct mandate to more effectively address the problem. There should be no question as to the political will of this administration and our determination to solve the problem, which arouse our serious lapses in policy decisions and programs implementation of the past [sentence as heard]. By this measure, we can now implement fast-track solutions and not just fast-track projects.

Let me enumerate the four special powers this law provides: first, to enter into negotiated contracts for the construction, repair, rehabilitation, improvement of maintenance of power plants, projects, and facilities, subject to various conditions. Second, to fix the return-on-base rate [as heard] to a not more than 12 percent of the rate base subject to several safeguards. Third, to reorganize the National Power Corporation [Napocor] to make it effective, innovative, and responsive, and adopt pay compensation of its personnel as maybe provided for in its 1994 approved budget subject to certain conditions. Fourth, derive from Pagcor [Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation] 10 percent of its aggregate gross earnings for the next five years, after deducting the 5-percent franchise stocks and the 50-percent income share of the national government.

The first provision allows suspension of the public bidding law and government projects. To allay fears that this may lead to more graft and corruption, adequate safeguards have been provided by the law. Before Napocor enters into a power contract, the list of projects, the amount involved, and the complete text of the contract shall first be published in a national newspaper. The contract shall be awarded only to those who meet the qualification requirements of existing laws, and all awarded projects shall be subjected to existing government auditing rules and regulations governing negotiated contracts.

The second provision that authorizes the review and revision on the return on rate-base for power utilities including the Napocor, may result to rate increases. But this is the price we have to pay, if we want to put an end to the crisis and adequately provide for the future. General power rate increases arise out of the condition of the fast-track power projects entered into by the past administration, since these are more expensive sources of power than regular base-load power plants. An increase of 17 or 18 centavos per kilowatt hour will enable the government, country to free millions of dollars of loans frozen by multinational and multilateral financial institutions. The upward adjustment will also enable us to intensify our efforts to construct regular base-load power projects that depart from the more expensive oil-dependent sources and towards more cost-efficient, indigenous sources of energy like hydroelectric and geothermal to produce cheaper electricity for consumers. [applause]

The third provision will enable us to address short-term measures and long-range reforms in Napocor so that it can be more efficient and accountable to the people. There should be no question as to the need to revamp the top and middle management of the Napocor. But in our anger and anguish, let us give due credit to, and even commend, the rank and file who operate our power plants and construct the distribution system from power plants to households and factories, regardless of their difficulty, long hours, low pay, and verbal abuse of the Napocor as a whole.

The fourth provision amends the Pagcor Charter as it allots part of its gross earnings as additional capital contribution to the Napocor. You must bear in mind that new power plants require additional, multimillion pesos of funding on the part of Napocor. Along with the return-on-base rate [as heard] adjustment, this contribution from Pagcor should generate other revenues to support the construction of new power plants, and the installation of transmission lines. At the bottom, we expect our fast-track projects, which will generate an additional 1,100 megawatts by the end of 1994, to cover expected shortfalls between now and next year.

This law makes sure that we will probably not speak in the next years of the 1991-1993 power and energy shortages. This new law puts us back on the road to recovery partially. In the meantime, I am appealing to our people to stretch their forbearance until we can feel the effects of ongoing projects which will be insured in their completion by these special measures.

In issuing this appeal, let me mention here that our efforts in energy developments are not limited to electricity. We are doing well in the oil and natural gas fronts. The confirmed discoveries in Linapacan and Camaco Malapaya, both in Palawan, are excitingly loaded with great potential. The oil refineries are expanding. The privatization of Petron is progressing well. Our geothermal power sources are being developed as rapidly as possible. Only recently, an agreement was signed among the major oil companies to dramatically reduce the lead content in gasoline that has polluted the air that we breathe.

Earlier this morning we witnessed an agreement to put 204 mini-hydro power plants good for 51 megawatts in many countryside locations, which have been left rusting away in bodegas [warehouse] during the last few years. I do not know how.

This selective power crisis law signifies the leadership sensitivity to public clamor to end the power shortage once and for all. [applause] It also manifests our earnest desire to remove some of the major obstacles against our attainment of newly industrialized country [NIC] status by the year 2000.

I trust that all of you, particulary the members of Congress, will continue to help generate the resources and reinforce the needed moral support to help solve our country's numerous problems. We are doing everything humanly possible to bring our country back on track to sustained development and NIC status. The gains we shall receive in the foreseeable future will be most rewarding not only for us but this time also for the generations to come. To all of you, many thanks, and long live the Republic of the Philippines.

Uses Crisis Powers, Revamps Napocor

HK0604040293 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 6 Apr 93 p 1

[Report by Booma Cruz with Cathy Canares]

[Excerpts] Barely an hour after the Energy Crisis Act was signed into law yesterday, President Ramos used one of his four emergency powers to replace National Power Corp (Napocor) President Pablo Malixi and two other Napocor board members.

Malixi was replaced by Dean Francisco Viray, head of the University of the Philippines College of Engineering and executive director of the Engineering Center. He will come in as Napocor head on May 1.

Rogelio Singson of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority and Teodorico Sanchez of the National Electrification Administration (NEA) were replaced as board membes by Rafael Lagos, a lawyer, and Gabriel Itchon, former president of Napocor under the Marcos administration.

The resignation of the two officials were accepted because they were already holding another full-time job.

Underscoring the urgency of the power shortage, the Presidnet met with the Cabinet's Cluster G after signing the new law to discuss how to implement Republic Act 7648, which gave him extra powers, including the authority to reorganize the Napocor.

Viray, who is still in the United States on an assignment from UP, is expected to return by the middle of this month. [passage omitted]

The President explained that Malixi's duties would have to overlap with Viray's to avoid disrupting the fast-track and regular base load projects and negotiations entered into by Napocor involving the government's energy projects.

Finance Undersecretary Romeo Bernardo was appointed adviser of the Napocor board on financial matters. [passage omitted]

In the Senate, the chairman of the committee on energy, said the emergency powers do not guarantee that the powerrate increase will not exceed 18 centavos.

Senator Francisco Tatad, who was also appointed chairman of the oversight committee, said the 18-centavo limit applies only to the National Power Corp.

He said any increased beyond 18 centavos will be investigated.

Senate majority leader Alberto Romulo said it was possible a rate increase would go as high as 18 centavos if Napocor fails to justify it.

He said full accountability and total transparency of Napocor operations will reveal if the 18-centavo is reasonable.

Senator Jose Lina warned that the law does not give the President the blanket authority to negotiate foreign loans.

Lina, the chairman of Senate committee of the whole which held hearings on emergency powers, said the presidential authority to enter into contracts to build, repair, improve or run power plants, projects and facilities, is subject to constitutional and legal provisions.

MNLF Spokesman Announces End of Jolo Cease-Fire

HK0504065193 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 5 Apr 93 p 25-

[Text] Zamboanga City—The seven year-old ceasefire forged between the Philippine Government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in Jolo, Sulu is over, MNLF spokesman Ustadz Shariff Zain Jali said here Thursday [1 April] night. Jali said there is no reason why the ceasefire should still hold considering the "massive violations committed by the military." Among these violations, Jali said, is the ongoing operations launched by the military against the Basilan rebels since February after the alleged massacre of 21 marines and four militiamen in Tuburan town by rebel bandits.

Basilan Island Command chief Brig. Gen. Guillermo Ruiz in a separate interview said the ceasefire is still in effect. Ruiz said the operations conducted by the military is only a police action against criminal elements responsible for the massacre of the Marines and against other terrorist groups who claimed responsibility in the kidnapping and bombing activities in Basilan and Zamboanga City.

AFP Spokesman Denies Cease-Fire Over

HK0604111093 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] There is no basis behind reports that the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] is withdrawing from its cease-fire agreement with the government. Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] spokesman Rufo de Veyra said that MNLF spokesman Ustadz Zain Jali's statement should be verified first.

De Veyra also dismissed reports of the arrival of newly trained Muslim rebels and the continued arrival of arms in the south. De Veyra stressed that the military is ready for any developments.

NDF: Ramos Economic Plan To Cause 'More Hardship'

HK0504124693 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 1100 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] The National Democratic Front [NDF] today criticized President Ramos' plan to turn the country into a tiger economy by the year 2000.

In a statement issued by its secretary, Frank Fernandez, the NDF said the plan is just another International Monetary Fund-World Bank prescription which would bring more hardship to the people. The NDF explained that the Ramos plan is the same economic formula that was proven to be the cause of the economic difficulties during the Marcos and Aquino administrations.

Thailand

Paper Objects to Aspects of U.S. Trade Report

BK0604033693 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 6 Apr 93 p 4

[Editorial: "US trade strategists should look in mirror"]

[Text] The Office of the US Trade Representative [USTR] has issued its eighth National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers, its annual exercise in global self-righteousness.

Thailand comes in for some heavy criticism. Between them the US Embassy in Bangkok and the section of USTR handling the region have managed to break the boredom of repetitive complaints with some colourful language.

In particular, the penalties that the Pharmaceutical Patent Board could impose on abusers of monopoly power are described as "draconian". And the Thai Food and Drug Administration's requirement for ingredients and processes to be disclosed is said to have "stifled" imports of US food products into Thailand.

The use of the word "Draconian" is surely premature; the Board has not started working yet and no penalties have been imposed on anyone. Considering the number of products imported from America and elsewhere that do appear on supermarket shelves, the suggestion that imports have been "stifled" because of FDA regulations does also seem an exaggeration.

The issue here is not just a matter of colourful words, however. Between March 31, when the report was issued, and April 30, the USTR is due to decide whether to impose penalties on Thai exports because of complaints about failure to protect intellectual property rights in Thailand.

There does therefore seem to be a danger that US Trade Representative Mickey Kantor could decide to penalise Thailand on the basis of the poetic turns of phrase of his officials.

A look at the report from Washington reveals the Americans' discontent with almost everyone. Even Australia and Japan do not escape complaint about intellectual property rights.

Two issues need to be separated here. One is the question of lawbreaking. The United States and others can justifiably complain about illicit copying of tapes and software. But in the case of software in particular, something should be done to prevent overpricing—the second issue.

Australia's solution to overpricing was to suggest "parallel imports"—if software imported by an agent of Microsoft (or any other company) is considerably more expensive than the same product sold in America, then others should be allowed to buy the software in America and import it into Australia, Canberra suggested. This is an absolutely reasonable suggestion. The software would still be bought from Microsoft, but the profit would be less. Still Washington took offence.

In Thailand's case the problem is with pharmaceuticals. Successive Thai governments have been worried about excessively-priced drugs and the impact that could have on health care. The solution reached under the new patent law is a technical matter that could be debated and could be amended but should not be grounds for trade penalties.

Drug pricing is a perfectly legitimate concern. The report lists country after country that has tried to tackle it, although the phrasing indicates Washington's disapproval for the methods chosen.

Moreover, it is a matter of priority for none other than Bill Clinton himself. That is why the new US president has already crossed swords with American drug companies. Mickey Kantor and his officials at USTR don't seem to agree, but it would be absurd for a president taking the line he has adopted recently at home to simultaneously take offence when other governments also try to protect their citizens against exploitation of monopoly power.

In this, it has to be said that Thailand has not been well-served by its own officials either. Whereas some Western trade experts, including at least one at senior level in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, argue that the Americans are asking too much on pharmaceutical patents, at least one Thai official has returned from last month's trade talks in Washington predicting penalties.

The comment was irresponsible, and it was made on condition of anonymity but to a large number of reporters who had to report what was said. The effect was like an attempt to soften the Thai public for the blow.

But this is not the time for blow-softening or negative talk. It is the time for Thailand to look for allies, to use world opinion to put pressure on the Americans not to be protectionist.

What is particularly objectionable about the so-called trade estimates is the assumption that everyone else is bad and that the United States alone is good. A look at one of GATT's regular assessments of US trade policy shows just how wrong that view is. The United States complains about others' high agricultural import duties. GATT points to import quotas on dairy products, peanuts, cotton and certain sugar-containing products, for example.

The point that the world's trade watchdog finds most offensive is none other than Section 301 of US trade law, the foundation of the trade estimates, the various priority lists, and the threat of retaliation.

With the Uruguay Round of GATT talks in such desperate trouble, the use of Section 301 this month would be a signal from Mr Clinton that Washington is turning its back on GATT. That would particularly be the case if the action is based on provisions of Thai patent law that are within the terms of the draft Uruguay Round agreement on intellectual property rights.

Accord Reached on Tape Pricing Proposal

BK0304015993 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 3 Apr 93 p 22

[Text] Copyright cassette tapes sold in the Thai market are to have their prices stamped on them to prevent retailers lifting their prices to make more profits and thereby giving tape pirates a better chance to control the market.

The measure was announced after a meeting between Deputy Commerce Minister Churin Laksanawisit, the president of the International Federation of Phonographic Institutes (IFPI), Peter Kan, and representatives of Thai tape producer groups, wholesalers and retailers.

Mr Kan said the IFPI would cooperate with the Thai Government's requirement for copyright cassette tape producers to stamp prices on their products. The prices would be fixed at a rate which included a 30 percent profit for tape retailers.

The wholesale price of copyright cassette tapes was between 42.80 baht and 69 baht but some retailers were selling them for 90-120 baht.

Mr Churin said the measure would also help Thai consumers receive fair treatment. He hoped in the future there would be more competition in the cassette tape market here and Thai consumers could buy quality tapes at low prices instead of the pirated tapes.

Mr Churin said 18.6 million pirated tapes were sold in Thailand last year, representing a 95 percent market share, while 1.2 million copyright tapes were sold.

He said he had asked the IFPI to report to the United States that Thailand was seriously tackling the copyright violation problem in the Thai market.

Army Prepares for Spillover From Cambodia

BK0604113293 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Supreme Commander Air Chief Marshal Woranat Aphichari has instructed the army to ensure the readiness of its units along the Cambodian border in order to cope with repercussions from the situation in Cambodia and prevent Cambodian refugees from crossing back into Thailand. The deputy director of the Supreme Command's Information Office said this after the supreme commander's inspection trip to Cambodia, where the situation has intensified steadily after the attack of UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] officials and the assassination of Cambodians.

A meeting of the Supreme Command predicted that the situation in Cambodia may continue to affect Thailand as armed elements cross into Thai territory to rob villagers and Cambodian people fleeing the border. This situation could cause UNTAC to persuade Thailand to help solve the refugee problem.

Security Tightened for Indian Premier's Visit

BK0404011793 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 4 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] The Government has ordered the Police Department and other agencies concerned to provide top security for Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao who will visit Thailand during April 7-10, a high-level government source said yesterday.

All agencies concerned have also been instructed to watch for the entry of a group of Sikh radicals who may try to instigate Sikh people in Thailand to oppose the Indian government.

Tight security measures for Mr Rao are necessary as India has been plagued with religious conflicts.

The government source said following the clash between Hindu and Muslim people at Ayodhaya late last year when a large number of people were killed, Special Branch and Metropolitan Police have stepped up security at the Indian embassy in Bangkok and the residence of the Indian ambassador to Thailand.

Police protection has also been provided for the Indian Airlines office and the Indian Consulate.

The Thai authorities have closely coordinated with the Indian embassy to prepare for Mr Rao's visit.

The source also said that a radical Sikh identified as Ajiab Singh who is based in Canada once came to Thailand.

There was suspicion the visit may have been aimed at instigating members of the Sikh community in Thailand to rise against the Indian government.

Sikh radicals under Babbr Khatsa also entered Thailand in mid-February to seek support for their movement.

Their activities are in connection with a group of Sikh radicals in France, the source said.

Meanwhile, Special Branch police commissioner Pol Lt-Gen [Police Lieutenant-General] Phiphun Kunlawanit confirmed that security measures for the Indian prime minister will be very tight.

Even those who wish to give him flowers will not be allowed to do so, he said, noting the method used to assassinate Rajiv Gandhi.

Special Branch police have been gathering intelligence reports on every movement which may be related to Mr Rao's visit, he said.

Mr Rao will be the first Indian prime minister to visit Thailand since the late Rajiv Gandhi in 1986.

Chuan Concerned for Rao's Safety

BK0504030393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 5 Apr 93 p A2

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai yesterday expressed concern for the safety of visiting Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao, due here on Wednesday and planning to extend his stay by one more day, and has ordered tight security during the official visit.

"I am concerned for the security of the Indian premier when the internal problems in Delhi are taken into account. What I am worried also is that some ill-intentioned groups from abroad will use Thailand as a stage to instigate unrest against Rao," Chuan said.

Rao, who is leader of India's Congress (I) Party, had asked to extend his planned three-day visit by an extra day, he said.

Rao is the first Indian leader to visit Thailand since the late Rajiv Gandhi in 1986. Former prime minister Gandhi was assassinated in 1989 by a bomber offering him a bouquet of flowers while he was on a pre-election tour of southern India.

National Security Council deputy chief Khachatphai Burutphat yesterday guaranteed the Indian premier's safety. The government and authorities concerned would accelerate security measures for Rao and his delegation, he said.

Khachatphai believed there would be no incident that could harm Rao during his visit. Security measures would not only focus on garlands of flowers and presents, but every aspect of the trip.

Rao and his delegation are scheduled to visit the Huay Hong Krai Royal Project in Chiang Mai province, and have been granted an audience with their Majesties the King and the Queen.

Discussions between the visiting delegation and Thai officials are expected to centre on mutual investment opportunities. Chuan and Rao are also expected to exchange experiences in leading a democracy.

Thai security agencies have been instructed to keep a close watch on any militant Sikhs who might try to incite activity against the Indian government.

Sikh militants in India's Punjab state have been waging a bloody campaign for independence for almost a decade.

A senior Thai police official, who asked not to be named, said the security beef-up ahead of Rao's visit was a safety precaution, and that police intelligence had found "no extra activities" among radical Sikhs in Thailand.

"But we aren't being complacent given recent incidents in India, including the spate of bombings," he said.

Discusses Security Precautions

BK0504073593 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] The prime minister is confident that the visit to Thailand of Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao will encounter no problems because all security precautions have been laid out. Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said this to newsmen this morning at the Democrat Party headquarters, adding that the police have undertaken full security measures for the Indian prime minister. He said he had no information about incidents being planned during the visit, but as a precaution must be ready in light of the situation in India.

The Indian prime minister and his delegation, totaling about 80, will pay an official visit to Thailand as guests of the Thai Government from 7-10 April. The Thai Government has scheduled an official reception on 7 April at 1600 at Government House.

While in Thailand, Thammasat University will present the Indian prime minister with an honorary art degree on 8 April at 1500 in the main university auditorium. The Indian prime minister is scheduled to inaugurate the Indian Center at the university built with the support of the Indian ambassador. He will also donate 1,000 books to the university. He is especially impressed by the university's long history of struggle for freedom and democracy.

Army Chief Speaks on Drug Traffic, Other Issues

BK0504150993 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] General Wimon Wongwanit, the Army commander, reported after meeting with the new Swedish ambassador to Thailand, Miss Eva Heckscher, that they exchanged views on the problems of narcotics trafficking—with Thailand being used as transit route for drugs smuggled from Burma—and about the situation in Cambodia where internal fighting still rages on.

[Begin Wimon recording] I told her what remains as the major concern for the Thai Armed Forces. First is the problem of narcotics trafficking, which is a danger threatening all mankind, with Thailand being used as a transit route for narcotics from Burma. Second, we are concerned about the situation at the Cambodian border. I told her that if there is still no peace in Cambodia, which is our neighbor, we can never suppress the cross-border armed smuggling and banditry that threatens our villagers. If there is peace in Cambodia, then we will be able to concentrate on economic development, especially development in the interests of Indochina itself. Thank you. [end recording]

Asked about the concern expressed by some of possible violence during the visit to Thailand by the Indian prime minister, Gen. Wimon said he was confident that there would be no problem, especially over religious matters. He said although there are two factions of Indians in Thailand, the two groups are strict followers of the Koran which teaches people to be honest to their land.

'Tough' Measures Announced at Budget Forum

BK0604022193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 6 Apr 93 pp 1,3

[Text] The Government yesterday announced tough measures to maximise use of the national budget, requiring each government agency to make a weekly progress report on implementation of plans and projects during the remaining six months of the fiscal year.

Declaring a different and new era for budget administration, Deputy Prime Minister Bunchu Rotchanasathian told government agencies to be prepared for close auditing and evaluation.

If government expenditure was to bear fruit and give a boost to the economy, it had to be closely monitored and evaluated at each step of implementation, he said.

The Auditor-General's Office will be responsible for auditing and assessing whether the implementation of plans meets their goals or not.

The agency's work will be complemented by existing internal-auditing units of government agencies.

Mr Bunchu said the measures will ensure that government agencies cannot lie about their performance.

The deputy premier blamed inefficient use of state funds for acts of corruption and an average undrawn budget of 50-60 billion baht left after the end of each fiscal year.

There are only six months left for the Government to spend the total budget of 560,000 million baht under the Annual Expenditure Budget Act, which was announced in the Royal Gazette on March 23.

Each government agency has been instructed to prepare a work schedule of its projects and to report its readiness to Cabinet ministers who oversee them by April 16, according to Mr Bunchu.

"On April 16, we will learn how efficiently each agency is doing its job," he said.

Afterwards, the agencies must make a weekly progress report to the Cabinet which will be able to detect when problems arise so that they can be tackled early on, he said.

The assessment of each programme will be taken into consideration when the Budget Bill is prepared for the next fiscal year, he said, adding that those which rate poorly will be terminated and their funding will be diverted to more useful programmes.

The measures were announced by the deputy premier at a meet-the-people session at Government House yesterday where government leaders explained how the annual budget would be spent.

The dull, four-hour programme was telecast live, featuring statements by Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and his four deputies followed by answers to questions from the floor and viewers who called in.

The Premier said the programme was not to publicise government achievements but to inform the public about the expenditure budget.

The Government earlier planned to broadcast a programme describing its achievements to counter widespread criticism for poor performance and lack of decisiveness.

But the topic was changed to show how the budget will be spent for the benefit of the people.

At one point, Mr Chuan refused to answer a question from the floor.

The question concerned how he would deal with politicians whose assets were seized under the Assets Examination Committee's orders following the Supreme Court's ruling declaring the seizures invalid.

The Premier called on the people to help monitor the implementation of development projects in their localities to prevent corruption.

Mr Bunchu said if the proposed measures are vigorously taken, they could effectively prevent corruption by government officials and Cabinet ministers.

Government leaders said the investment budget of 170,770 million baht, or 30.7 percent of the total budget of 560,000 million baht for the current fiscal year, is the largest ever earmarked.

The huge amount of the investment budget will be a boost to the country's economy and people's well-being, they said.

The economic impact will be felt in the second quarter, according to Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan.

Mr Chuan stressed that the thrust will be to spread and develop infrastructure and public facilities in the provinces, which is in line with the Government's policy of distribution of wealth.

A large amount of the budget will go for development of water sources, construction of roads, health care facilities and intervention to shore up farm prices.

The premier said high-quality paddy fetched prices higher than the target rices but conceded that problems with low-quality rice have been difficult to solve because of low demand and tough competition.

Mr Chuan acknowledged there were concerns that Cabinet members were at odds with each other but said that the coalition Government has stayed on course in adhering to its policies.

Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon said he was satisfied with measures implemented to shore up paddy prices.

Even though paddy prices were low measures implemented by the Government had helped farmers to obtain money through rice mortgage deals.

The Government has also been able to sell almost one million tons of rice to buyers who were not regular customers of rice from Thailand, such as Iran, Malaysia and South Korea, he said.

Deputy Premier Says Economy Not in Recession

BK0604024193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 6 Apr 93 p 13

[Text] The Government will use its fiscal expenditure budget to stimulate economic growth, with positive impact to be felt in the second quarter of this year.

At the same time, it will use its fiscal budget as an instrument to sustain economic growth at a level not lower than 8 percent next fiscal year.

Those are promises made by the Chuan Likphai Government in a special programme titled "What the people will obtain from the fiscal budget of 560,000 million baht" broadcast live by the TV pool for four hours yesterday.

It was the first time that the Government organised such a programme and allowed representatives of the private sector and the Press to attend. Questions from the floor and viewers were accepted and Government Spokesman Aphisit Wetchachiwa claimed at the end of the programme that over 1,200 people had telephoned in questions for the Government to answer.

In answering a question about the economic recession, Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak said the Government refused to accept the economy was in recession.

"It's true that the country's export value in the first two months of the year increased by only 12 percent, while the target set by the Government was 16 percent, but this was mainly due to the worldwide economic slowdown.

"Moreover, when considering the monthly figures, it was found that the export value in January was lower than the target, but it was higher above target in February, and there is a trend that the whole year's figure will not be under target," Dr Suphachai said.

He said the Government has also tried to expand the traditional export markets and find new ones.

He said the Government has set a deficit of 25,600 million baht for its 1993 fiscal budget and that reflects the Government's intention of using spending to stimulate the economy.

Withdrawals from the fiscal budget for spending had been delayed by the parliamentary process, but now they can be made, "so the economy should begin to be very active in the second quarter and continue to be active for the rest of the year," he noted.

Dr Supachai admitted that investment by foreign investors had declined, "but it was not because the Government did not pay attention to this problem. The situation was caused by the economic slowdown in countries which are our main investors, particularly Japan."

However, he said, the general investment situation is not in a slowdown this year. "Many local industries, for example, automobile, are expanding continuously. Investment expanded only 1 percent last year, but it tends to expand not less than 8 percent this year."

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Tharin Nimmanhemin said the Government has set four directions in setting the budget for next fiscal year.

The first one is that the expenditure budget must enable the Government to sustain a stable economic growth with a target rate of 8 percent a year.

To sustain economic growth with stability the Government will have to continue to stick to the fiscal discipline by setting the expenditure in line with the net revenue collected, and that is the second direction, Mr Tharin said.

The 1993 fiscal sees the budget for investment equivalent to 30.7 percent of the total budget and that is the highest proportion in 30 years, but the Government intends to have a larger proportion next fiscal year. This will be achieved by strictly controlling the regular expenditure so that there are enough funds available for more investment to serve the Government's policy and to be in line with the Seventh Economic and Social Development Plan.

The last direction is that the Government will use the budget to maintain the continuity of its development works and solving economic and social problems. In the 1993 fiscal budget, the Government has set aside

156,000 million baht for developing rural areas and the allocation of budget for this purpose next fiscal year will not be lower than this amount, Mr Tharin said.

He said the Government will also improve the procedure in withdrawing budget for spending and has introduced a system to forecast the contingent spending in the future so that the Government will have a clearer picture in setting fiscal budgets.

Mr Tharin said the Government has projected its revenue collection next fiscal year at 600,000 million baht, up 12.3 percent from this fiscal year, but it has not yet finalised the figure for its fiscal budget.

Opposition Criticizes 'Dull' Budget Forum

BK0604030693 Bangkok THE NATION in English 6 Apr 93 pp A1-A2

[Text] Opposition politicians assessing yesterday's "Meet the People" programme, where key Cabinet members explained the national budget to the people, said the government had failed miserably to better its image.

The government's image did not improve at all, Chat Thai Party MP Songsuk Phakkasem said yesterday.

"The government failed to impress the people," Songsuk, a Chiang Mai MP, told reporters. "The Cabinet members did not come up with concrete explanations. The programme was like a mere compilation of dull reports from different ministries."

Songsuk said he could give the government only 20 marks out of 100 for its programme.

Kraisak Chunhawan, son of former prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan and his adviser, said the government had wasted time in organizing such a programme because the people already knew the nature of the work at different ministries.

"This kind of issue has already been discussed in Parliament. There's no need to go over it again," Kraisak said.

Ratsadon Party leader Chaiphak Siriwat said the government had failed to improve its image in spite of the programme.

"They simply appear on television and, instead of improving stock prices make them drop," he said, without providing specific figures.

He said the opposition parties would do their best work when Parliament reconvened in May.

Chaiphak said there were now actually more than 170 opposition MPs, and not 153 as understood. He was apparently adding the Social Action Party's 22 MPs to the total of 153 official opposition MPs.

The SAP has on many occasions been a vocal critic of the government and recently threatened to pull out of the coalition.

Chaiphak said the government had ignored SAP leader Montri Phongphanit's "creative criticism".

"They deserved it when the SAP leader was angry," he said.

He criticized the government for trying to create a good image through yesterday's event while its achievements during the past six months and its expected achievements in the next six months were unclear.

Permanent officials could explain to the people the appropriation of the national budget and it was unnecessary for the government to do that, he said.

The government, he said, did not tell the public what it should have, like what it would do to improve the rice price which is now only Bt [baht] 2,300-2,400 per tonne.

"There should be some change in this government," he said, adding that the opposition did not want to see the government collapse.

He claimed that he had heard certain villagers in Nakhon Pathom's Bang Len district saying that "Chuan is dead" because he had achieved nothing as prime minister.

Seritham Party spokesman Phinit Charusombat supported the government's organization of the programme but said it had failed to achieve anything concrete.

He said Chuan would be unlikely to survive his four-year term because there had never been a Thai leader who was acceptable to all factions.

Earlier in the day, Chat Phatthana Party leader Chatchai Chunhawan said before the government's "Meet the People" programme that its image had a chance of improving after its explanations to the public.

Muanchon Party Leader Chaloem Yubamrung, also speaking before the programme, said the government had to restore the public's faith and wished it success.

Paper Sees 'Little of Substance'

BK0604033293 Bangkok THE NATION in English 6 Apr 93 p A6

[Editorial: "Chuan forum clouded by generalities and figures"]

[Text] Besides the impressive set-up, little of substance came out of yesterday's televised forum in which the prime minister and his entire Cabinet faced the people to talk about the 1993 budget. Instead of being told of the vision the government has for the future, the audience was treated to generalities and meaningless figures which only experts can understand.

The government was trapped by its own attempts to limit the theme of the forum to the budget for the 1993 fiscal year. Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and his deputies spent two hours—half of the time of the session—generalizing what their government intends to do during the remainder of the fiscal year. But their presentations sounded more like straight lift-outs from the budget report. The audience must also be perplexed by the figures in money terms each of them tossed about endlessly to try to illustrate the importance they attached to each of the projects in the budget.

When addressing major development projects, Chuan and his Cabinet did not try to go into detailed plans. Instead of telling the public how these projects will be carried out or how they will benefit the country in concrete terms, they were content with trying to impress the audience with investment figures. After an hour, the dozens of different figures given out made no difference to the audience. And when fielding questions from reporters and the home audience during the second part of the session, Cabinet members avoided answering with specifics, thus shedding little light on several topics of great interest to the public.

The audience came away having learnt little new about what will happen to the country in the remaining months of the fiscal year under the Chuan government, let alone being more confident of the administration's ability to get things done.

By choosing to talk about the future as he and his ministers did during the session yesterday, Prime Minister Chuan might have thought he could deflect questions about the past—about which he obviously has little to boast. Yesterday's forum came amid criticism that the first six months of the Chuan government has passed with few tangible achievements. Prime Minister Chuan missed a good opportunity to use the session to counter this criticism—provided he had something concrete to say or show. It is important for Chuan and his government to regain the public's slipping confidence before he can expect them to have faith in what he plans for the future.

Chuan has always been faulted by critics for being a leader who cannot inspire and who has no clear vision for the country. A face-to-face meeting with the public like the one he organized yesterday, affords him a good chance to communicate directly with the people. If Chuan wants to prove his critics wrong, there is no better forum to do it.

Nevertheless, the Chuan government should be commended for its initiative. Despite its many flaws, the forum demonstrates the government's sincerity and courage in facing the people to talk about subjects of crucial importance. The people need more such forums to question the performance of their government.

But for the government, there are dangers in a forum of such magnitude. It creates expectations. People feel let down if all they hear amounts to nothing more than a public relations exercise. The Chuan government has taken a step in the right direction. The question is how to put more substance into these exercises, if more are to be held.

Prasong Reviews Foreign Ministry's Performance

BK0304023193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 3 Apr 93 p 3

[Text] Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri yesterday met high-level officials to review the Ministry's performance in the six months since he assumed the post.

The purpose of the meeting was to increase understanding among officials of the government's policies and to encourage them in their work.

The meeting took place three days prior to the publication of a review of the Government's performance over the last six months.

Sqn Ldr [Squadron Leader] Prasong said the ministry had so far achieved successes in promoting human rights and democracy, in its policies towards neighbouring countries, in expanding economic relations with the world community, and "at the international level."

He said the main objective of Thailand's policy towards its neighbours was to foster peace and stability in the region in order together to enjoy prosperity and other benefits.

"Thailand will continue to play a constructive role, with the advantage of its geographical location, as a gateway and a linking point for the ASEAN and Indochinese region.

"We will try to give support, cooperate and build up trust among ASEAN and Indochinese countries," he said.

Cambodia is about to begin a new chapter of political change after the signing of the Paris peace accord.

Thailand has participated in more than a decade of the history of the peace process in Cambodia, Sqn Ldr Prasong said.

"The successes were the result of our long and untiring efforts and we can be fully proud of them," he said.

Thailand would still closely monitor the situation, especially after the coming elections, and would be poised to handle any possible problems that occur.

He said the ministry had also tried to help in the exploration of new markets in eastern Europe, southern Africa and southern China.

It had maintained close relations with business partners such as Japan, the US and the EC.

The cooperation to develop the Mekong River in Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam would also be in focus in the future, he said.

A detailed study is being conducted.

Thailand will look into the possibility of linking trade and economics in southern China, Burma and Laos through the river for further land transportation networks.

"This cooperation is a new and advanced idea from the regional level for this period of economically oriented politics.

"We cannot overlook it," he said.

He said the ministry had contributed to the developing trend of political awareness in the country.

"The principle of democracy is a basic but significant factor in the international relations of the post-Cold War era, and will arouse the Thai people to realise and cherish the democratic system," he said.

Suspects Detained for Illegal Trading of Cambodian Wood

BK0404012093 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 4 Apr 93 p 2

[Text] Prachin Buri—Three suspects have been detained in Wattana Nakhon District for illegal trading in processed wood from Cambodia, police said.

Six 10-wheel trucks and four pick-ups with processed wood in the form of parquet wood and window frames were confiscated.

Military: UNTAC Interfering in Bandit Suppression

BK0204133493 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] The Supreme Command denied a report on its support for setting up a reward for the arrest of Cambodian bandits operating along the border areas, noting that the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] force often violates Thailand's sovereignty.

In response to the UNTAC commander's letter to the Thai Foreign Ministry expressing his disagreement with the statement made by Chief of Staff General Wisit Atkhumwong during a press conference on the idea of rewarding the arrest of Cambodian bandits, Lieutenant General Anuson Kritsanaserani, director of the Suprme Command Information Office, told reporters that the Thai military has never supported such a plan. The proposal merely reflected the desire of the people and business people who have been suffering because of the Cambodian bandits.

[Begin Anuson recording] In particular [UNTAC Chief] Akashi, his work is in Cambodia. He should not interfere in the suppression of bandits in Thailand. I consider that he is interfering in the operation of our authorities. [end recording]

Army Chief Praises Antismuggling Campaign

BK0304025393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 Apr 93 p A2

[Text] Army commander in chief Gen Wimon Wongwanit said yesterday he expected that the authorities' continued campaign would succeed in curbing and eventually eliminating the smuggling of war weapons.

In their latest operation, police said they had recovered over 800 smuggled detonators and a large cache of RPG [rocket-propelled grenade] rockets, according to the government committee directing the campaign.

The committee is a joint military, police and civilian effort to supress the smuggling of war weapons across the Thai-Cambodian border to the east and the Thai-Burmese border to the west.

Government Concludes Rice Accord With Malaysia

BK0304024493 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 Apr 93 p B8

[Text] The Foreign Trade Department has struck a deal with the Malaysian government to sell a total of 100,000 tonnes of 5 percent rice, the first government-to-govemment rice accord between Thailand and Malaysia in 10 years.

Charae Chutharatkun, director-general of the Foreign Trade Department, declined to disclose the price but described it as a "friendship" price. Charae, on Thursday, negotiated the rice deal with Dato Syed Ahmed Bin Syed Muhammad Almahdali, chairman of Malaysia's National Paddy and Rice Board, a government organization.

The sale is a part of the Foreign Trade Department's attempt to release its rice stock of 886,690 tonnes, which the department has collected through seven lots of the government's interventlon programme to shore up main-crop rice.

The rice will be delivered between now and September.

Charae said that, following the deal with the Malaysian government, the Foreign Trade Department has almost emptied its stock now.

The Commerce Ministry earlier sent five trade missions overseas to negotiate with the potential customers to buy Thai rice. Commerce Minister Uthai Pimchaichon also paid a recent visit to Malaysia, in which Charae partially attributed the ministry's success in the rice deal to Uthai.

Charae said that the Foreign Trade Department has, to date, exported a total of 550,000 tonnes of rice on a government-to-government basis, 350,000 tonnes of this went to Iran, 100,000 tonnes to North Korea and 100,000 tonnes to Malaysia.

The government has also agreed to sell some part of low-grade rice to Dutch brokers.

Asked whether the Commerce Ministry was planning to collect the second-crop rice, Charae said that it was quite difficult to keep the second-crop rice because it contains high moisture, which requires high maintenance cost.

The Commerce Ministry has asked all farmers under the government's second crop rice intervention programme to register at the ministry to avoid possible corruption.

Chaiyot Sasomsap, deputy commerce minister, said at the press conference yesterday that, with the registration, the government will be able to know the exact amount of second-crop rice production subject to the government's subsidy.

The second-crop rice farmers, under the government subsidy, are required to slash cultivation by 20 percent.

The economic ministers have agreed in principle to use the budget, worth Bt [baht] 587.1 million from the Farm Assistance Fund, to purchase a total of 1.9 million tonnes of rice. With the budget, the government will pay farmers Bt300 per tonne more than the market price.

The money will be spent from now until November.

Russian Government To Decrease Rice Purchases

BK0604035793 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 6 Apr 93 p 22

[Text] The Russian Government has decided to put a damper on rice purchases from Thailand, while officials in Moscow and Bangkok complain that their mail to each other is not receiving prompt attention.

Senior Russian officials told the Bangkok Post that they are receiving adequate rice shipments to meet current consumption requirements. Shipments from Vietnam have already reached 55,000 tons for the year. The US Department of Agriculture has promised to deliver 87,000 tons and some rice continues to arrive from Thailand that was contracted last year.

Vietnamese rice is supplied in compensation of Vietnam's debts to Russia and the American rice will be donated without charge.

The rice negotiator for Exportkhleb, Andrei Ambartsumian, told the Bangkok Post that he anticipates no rice purchase from India this year.

He says that early in March, he wrote to the Ministry of Commerce in Bangkok, proposing a credit deal to include both rice and tapioca, but has received no reply yet.

"I doubt that we can buy any rice directly for cash," Mr Ambartsumian said. "It should be possible to work only on a credit basis."

He also predicted that because of credit limits, the Russian demand this year will be "for less rice, for sure".

The Russian official said he believes a barter arrangement for rice "is technically not feasible for us".

He explained one reason for the delay in coming to terms with Bangkok is that until the details of the Russian debt rescheduling agreement with the Paris Club are decided and clear, Exportkhleb and the State Committee for Grain Purchase cannot get from the Ministry of Finance an allocation of funds with which to pay off their current obligations.

A partial rescheduling agreement was finalised by the Paris Club last week.

Thai officials have told the Bangkok Post that Exportkhleb was recently asked to postpone a planned visit to Bangkok until late in April or in May. This would allow time for Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin to respond to detailed Thai proposals for resolving the debt issue and for barter and other arrangements to cover new Russian purchases of rice and other Thai goods.

Officials in Bangkok have also told the Russians that because of the subsidised price offered for tapioca, the trade in that commodity must be settled in cash and kept separate from rice and other commodity credit talks.

"I want tapioca to be combined [in the rice credit deal]," Mr Ambartsumian told the Bangkok Post.

He added that he has been authorised to buy up to one million tons of tapioca, which the Russians use primarily for vodka production, because it is cheaper than other grain, and for animal feed.

Leonid Cheshinskiy, chairman of the Grain Purchase Committee, believes that tapioca currently has a higher priority for Russian procurement than rice. It is not clear how much cash his committee and Exportkhleb will have to spend for tapioca if credit terms are ruled out by Bangkok.

Bank of Thailand Extends Baht Control Liberalization

BK0104032793 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 1 Apr 93 p 30

[Text] The Bank of Thailand has further liberalised exchange controls by raising the limit on baht currency investors can take to countries sharing borders with Thailand and to Vietnam to 250,000 baht.

The previous limit was 50,000 baht for Vietnam and 100,000 baht for other neighbouring countries.

Finance Minister Tharin Nimmanhemin approved a central bank decision to ease the controls so that investors and traders could invest more in the neighbouring countries, said central bank spokesman Pisit Li-atham.

Mr Pisit said the Bank of Thailand did not previously consider Vietnam a Thai neighbour so investors and traders were limited to taking 50,000 baht to that country.

The new regulations, which come into effect today, mean investors and traders will not need to seek central bank permission to take up to 250,000 baht to the countries to invest or engage in business.

Bank of Thailand Assistant Governor Siri Gancharoendi said raising the limit would result in smoother trade between Thailand and the neighbouring countries and increase activity in Thailand's new offshore banking units, the Bangkok International Banking Facilities (BIBF).

Money taken out for investment could be recycled back onto BIBF banks' books through trading or investment.

"Once there are offshore baht accounts in the BIBFs, loans will be launched in baht currency as it is one of the currencies the BIBFs can launch for lending," said Mr Siri.

He said Thai banks opening branches or operating BIBFs in Indochinese nations could also take advantage of this point. The branches would be able to find clients in both the government and private sectors of the countries in which they invest through the Thai banks' BIBFs.

At the same time, the Thai banks' BIBFs would be able to arrange syndicate loans both in baht and foreign currencies.

Presently, 18 branches of Thai banks have been given permission to open in Indochinese nations, mostly from the five major banks and the Thai Military Bank. Nine have already started to operate, mainly in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

Mr Siri said he had assigned officials to review the possibility, and advantages and disadvantages, of increasing the limit on funds Thais were allowed to invest abroad from the current level of US$5 million. Increasing that limit would be the next step in liberalising currency exchange controls.

The central bank was still not likely to liberalise investment in the stock or property markets. People who wanted to invest in those two markets still had to seek permission from the bank on a case-by-case basis.

"However, if the stock market has a trend to become more open and have closer relations with foreign stock markets, including the certainty of the Government preventing investors' risks, the Bank of Thailand may consider easing (restrictions on) taking money to invest in foreign stock markets. But for the property market, it may be difficult to loosen (the rules) because of much instability," he said.

Commercial Banks Branch Into Neighboring Countries

BK0404071093 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] Leading Thai commercial banks are allowed to open their branches in neighboring countries to promote trade. Director of the Office of the Governor of the Bank of Thailand Phisit Li-atham says that in 1992 and 1993, the government has allowed six leading Thai commercial banks to open their branches in Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar, and China, totaling 18 so far. Nine branches have already been opened, according to Mr. Phisit. He says the opening of branches of Thai commercial banks will promote trade and investment between Thaialnd and neighboring countries as well as promoting Thailand as a financial and business center.

Laos Grants Joint Venture Airline, Airport Deal

BK0304024393 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 3 Apr 93 p 15

[By Suphakan Sophitthakamon]

[Text] Orient Air Express Co, a new Thai-Laotian joint venture, has been granted a concession to operate the airline business and develop airports in Laos, with the contract scheduled for signing in the next two weeks according to managing director Udom Thantiprasongchai.

The investment is an expansion of Cambodia International Airlines, in which Mr Udom has invested through Fuldaa Corp. The airline has been operating between Bangkok and Phnom Penh since last May.

A new aircraft is due from Singapore soon and the operation will start within 90 days of the signing of the contract, in accordance with the agreement between the two joint venturers.

Mr Udom told Business Post that the company will initially fly domestic routes to help solve the flight shortage problem, particularly between Vientiane and Luang Prabang.

Flights from Laos to other countries will be developed later, he added.

The company's present shareholding structure is 70 percent Thai and 30 percent Laotian. It will be changed to 60 percent and 40 percent, then to 50 percent and 50 percent eventually.

Phao Bounnaphon, Minister of the Prime Minister's Office of Laos, who visited Bangkok recently, said airports will be developed on the build-operate-transfer (BOT) basis.

He said Orient Air Express has a registered capital of US$5 million and total investment should be around US$10 million, with the operation to start possibly in June.

Mr Phao said the Laotian Government welcomes foreign investment particularly in the development of infrastructure such as electricity and roads.

"Initially, we are trying to reach a general agreement in principle with the Thai Government to pave the way for private firms to negotiate investment details with the Laotian Government," he said after meeting Dr Sawit Photiwihok, Minister of the Thai Prime Minister's Office.

Mr Phao said Dr Sawit has agreed for both sides to sign a memorandum of understanding to this effect. The signing will take place in Laos when Dr Sawit visits that country in the near future.

The Laotian Government plans to designate its central region as the heavy-industry area. Located opposite

Thailand's Nakhon Phanom province, the region is rich in mineral resources, forests and hydro-power potential.

To attract more investment, the Laotian Board of Investment has been established.

Natural Gas Found in Sakon Nakhon Province

BK0504091993 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] The country's first natural gas deposit has been found by the Total Khorat Company in Waritchaphum District, Sakon Nakhon Province. Drilling is scheduled to begin on 1 May. Sakon Nakhon Governor Amnuai Yotphet reported that the Total Company, which had the concession to explore for oil and natural gas deposits in 10 districts and two subdistricts of Sakon Nakhon, started its operations on 24 November 1991. According to the company's report on its operations, Total notified the province that it had discovered a natural gas deposit, believed to be of commercial value, in Pa Muang Village, Tambon Khambo, Waritchaphum District, Sakon Nakhon Province. The company has named the area Phulop IX. It is a rice field surrounded by mountains. The company will drill a hole about 1,500 m deep. Environment experts will be hired for consultation.

The governor of Sakon Nakhon welcomed the news saying the natural gas find is very good luck for the people because it means that, once the drilling gets started, there will be a demand for workers. Roads will be built into the villages, and water sources will be dredged for villagers free of charge. The Total Khorat Company, which has another concession for oil exploration in the province, will set up an oil drilling platform in Sakon Nakhon.

Also, the Unocal Company Ltd., with a concession for oil and natural gas exploration, has started exploring. A Unocal official informally told reporters that the company expects to strike a natural gas deposit and set up a drilling platform in Tambon Khamin, Muang District, Sakon Nakhon. There are bright prospects that Sakon Nakhon will become a prosperous province soon.

Vietnam

Do Muoi Receives U.S. Group for Talks

BK0504155493 Hanoi VNA in English 1535 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 5—General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Do Muoi received here this afternoon U.S. Senator Edmund Muskie who is leading 13 American political activists and businessmen on a visit to Vietnam.

Senator Edmund Muskie, a former secretary of state and chairman of the Center for National Policy, thanked General Secretary Do Muoi and the concerned Vietnamese offices for their good-will hospitality. He said that his visit this time is to inquire into the Vietnamese situation and gather full information on Vietnam's stance on the settlement of the existing issues in the Vietnam-U.S. relations.

He also welcomed Vietnam's open-door foreign policy and said that he had personally supported the normalisation of Vietnam-U.S. relations and would continue to work in this direction for the common interests of both countries and for peace and security in the world as a whole.

General Secretary Do Muoi reaffirmed that Vietnam has consistently followed a foreign policy of friendship, peace and cooperation and that "Vietnam wants to be friend with all countries."

On the prospective normalization of U.S.-Vietnam relations, the Vietnamese party leader said that it would only benefit both peoples and go in line with the common aspiration of the whole humankind who wish to build a world of peace, stability and cooperation on the principles of mutual benefit, equality and mutual respect.

General Secretary Do Muoi also said, "It is time for us to let bygones (?be bygones) and look toward the future. The Vietnamese people and government have been (?practicing) good will toward the US through their concrete actions, in the hope that the government would do the same, for it takes both sides to show good will and a sense of construction for us to soon reach a normalization of relations. [no closing quotation marks as received]

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Tran Quang Co was present at the reception.

Commentary Views Significance of Visit

BK0604120693 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] A delegation of American political activists and businessmen headed by Senator Edmund Muskie, former U.S. secretary of state, is on a visit to Vietnam. Here is our radio editor's opinion:

This is a significant mission with a diversified membership coming to Vietnam to inquire into the situation here. The former U.S. state secretary, Senator Edmund Muskie, and his party compared notes with Vietnam on issues concerning the normalization of Vietnam-U.S. relations and proliferation of weapons and regional security. According to Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Tran Quang Co, the meeting took place in a warm and mutual understanding atmosphere. He maintained that the presence of Senator Muskie in Hanoi itself is significant. Mr. Co stressed: The normalization of relations between the two countries would benefit people and businessmen in both countries.

This was clearly demonstrated recently with 20 members of the U.S.-Vietnam Trade Council signing a letter to U.S.

President Clinton demanding the lifting of the U.S. economic embargo against Vietnam. This number doubled the number of similar letters to the U.S. President last year.

Reportage on Visit by German Foreign Minister

Cooperation Agreements Signed

BK0504093393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] On 3 April, at the Government House in Hanoi, a ceremony was held to sign cooperation agreements between Vietnam and Germany. On behalf of their respective governments, SRV Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel signed an agreement on encouraging and protecting investments in Vietnam and Germany, and an agreement on assigning specialists of the German Service Development Agency to Vietnam.

Comrade Pham Duy Lan, director general of the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and a representative of the German Seimens Industrial Group singed an agreement on a comprehensive long-term cooperation program between the two organizations.

Comrade Dang Van Than, director of the General Post and Telegraph Department, and a representative of the German Seimens Group signed a document to open a wide-band Hanoi-Danang microvawe communication line. On this occasion, German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel talked to technicians in Danang through this microwave communication system.

At the signing ceremony, SRV Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel delivered speeches stressing the significance of the newly signed agreements and documents. They said that the event has marked further progress in the efforts to perfect the legal aspect and to create favorable conditions for German investors, specialists, and developers to enhance their cooperation with Vietnam. The two ministers expressed the hope that Vietnam and Germany will further accelerate bilateral cooperation and optimally exploit potential to strengthen this task.

Attending the ceremony were representatives of the SRV Government Office, officials from agencies concerned, and German Ambassador to Vietnam Jurgen Elias.

On the evening of the same day, SRV Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and his German counterpart, Klaus Kinkel, held a news conference to brief journalists on the results of the German delegation's visit to Vietnam. Attending the news conference were a large group of journalists both local and from abroad, many foreign ambassadors, and representatives of embassies from various countries.

Nguyen Manh Cam, Kinkel Meet

BK0404061293 Hanoi VNA in English 1529 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 3—Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and visiting German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel held talks at the government's guest house here this morning.

The talks were attended among others by Assistant Foreign Minister Nguyen Dinh Bin, and German Ambassador to Vietnam Jurgen Elias.

Minister Nguyen Manh Cam warmly welcomed the German foreign minister and his entourage and said that this first visit by a FRG [as received] foreign minister was an event of great significance in the friendship and cooperation between the two countries. He reiterated that Vietnam wants to be friends with all countries in the international communisty of the basis of mutual efforts for peace, independence and development. He pointed to the recent important developments in Vietnam's relations with countries in the region and the world and stressed that Vietnam treasures its multi-sided relations with the FRG, legitimate interests in conformity with the bilateral relations and the propsects of cooperation between the two countries.

Minister Kinkel highly valued the Vietnamese people's achievements in their renovation process and their implementation of the foreign policy aimed at diversifying international relations. He reaffirmed that Germany will continue to support the renovation process in Vietnam and wishes for the strengthening of its multi-sided relations with Vietnam. He also said that Germany will step up its development aid to Vietnam and that Germany considers Vietnam an important place in the region which has attracted high attention from the Germany business circle.

The German foreign minister also said that Germany will contribute to stepping up the normalization of the U.S.-Vietnam relationals [as received] and continue to help Vietnam achieve an early normalization of relations with international financial and monetary institutions and strengthen its relations with the European Community.

The two ministers expressed their satisfaction at the recent developments in the two countries' relations and agreed that they still have many potentials which remain to be tapped effectively in order to expand their cooperation of mutual benefits and bring the bilateral relations to a new stage for the interests of the two nations and for peace and development in Southeast Asia and the world as a whole.

Later in the day, at a joint press conference, the two ministers announced that Vietnam and Germany will continue work to soon conclude bilateral agreements on non-double taxation and civil aviation.

Do Muoi Receives Kinkel

BK0404062893 Hanoi VNA in English 1548 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 3—Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, received here this afternoon visiting German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel.

Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel praised the important achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people in the process of renovation and the implementation of the open-door foreign policy.

He spoke highly of the developments in the Vietnamese-German relations in recent years.

The German foreign minister also reaffirmed that the German Government is confident that the friendship and economic, cultural and scientific-technical cooperation between the two countries will be further developed in the coming years.

General Secretary Do Muoi welcomed Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel's official visit to Vietnam and the fine results of the talks between the two foreign ministers. He also highly appreciated the experience of Germany in its development of a modern economy and technology and wished that Germany play a role commensurate to its status in its cooperative relations with Vietnam and the other countries in the region.

Do Muoi also reaffirmed that Vietnam always respects its relations with Germany. He asked the German foreign minister to convey his greetings to President R.V. Weizsaker and Prime Minister Helmut Kohl and wished that the two sides exchange high-level visits to strengthen their bilateral friendship and cooperation.

The reception were attended by Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and German ambassador to Vietnam Jurgen Elias.

Kinkel Meets Vo Van Kiet, Departs

BK0404152993 Hanoi VNA in English 1517 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 4—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet this morning received at the presidential palace Foreign Minister of Germany Klaus Kinkel on the last day of his official visit to Vietnam. Prime Minister Kiet told his guest that at present the two countries have very good conditions to continue developing their traditional relations in many fields with higher quality and efficiency in accordance with the capacities and aspiration of the people of each country. He further said that in its development Vietnam cannot do without the cooperation and assistance from Germany in management, industry, science and technology. The Vietnamese leader said he hoped that Germany will contribute to accelerating the normalization of relation between Vietnam and the United States, support and help Vietnam in the early normalization of relations with international financial and monetary organizations and the further development of its relations with the European Community. In his reply, Minister Klaus Kinkel said: "Germany regards Vietnam as an important area in the region. Germany wants to further strengthen its cooperative relations of mutual benefit with Vietnam in many fields. Firstly, Germany and Vietnam should agree and sign agreements to encourage German businesses to enter the Vietnamese market, bringing along their long-time experiences and high quality goods. At the same time Germany will also create conditions for Vietnam to make the best use of the advantages offered by the 60,000 Vietnamese who have studied or worked in Germany". He assured the Vietnamese prime minister that Germany will actively solve the remaining issues in the relation between the two countries so that it may further develop in the coming time.

Minister Klaus Kinkel left Hanoi later in the day, concluding his official visit to Vietnam.

World Community Urged To Stop Killing in Cambodia

BK0604061093 Hanoi VNA in English 0545 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 6—NHAN DAN today once again calls on the world community to take practical deeds to stop immediately the bloody massacres of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia and to defend their lives and property.

The paper quotes an official of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) as saying that in the past three months more than 100 persons including many Vietnamese were killed by the Khmer Rouge. The paper goes on: 'Today, everybody has seen that right after the signing of the peace agreement on Cambodia, the Democratic Kampuchea faction already showed its uncooperative attitude and its avowed intention to make peace a failure. While encroaching upon territories under other factions' control it has obstinately refused to implement the second phase of the cease fire by not taking part in the disarmement process and in the preparations for the elections under UNTAC and it does not allow UNTAC officials to enter areas under its control, and has many times opened fire at UNTAC planes and captured UNTAC officials. It continues to incite national hatred, massacre Vietnamese residents and slander Vietnam. It deliberately devaluates the Cambodian riel and causes monetary confusion on the market to sabotage the State of Cambodia's economic policies. Since July 1992 and particularly in the past few months as the date set for the elections approaches, the Khmer Rouge have taken their acts of violence and terrorism to a serious level by launching bloody attacks on everyone outside its faction including UNTAC officials'.

Assembly Accepting Public Input on Legislation

BK0504150593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] On 2 April. The National Assembly Office issued a communique as follows:

In furtherance of a resolution adopted by the second session of the ninth National Assembly regarding legislative work for 1993, the National Assembly will discuss and ratify the revised draft law on land and the draft law on taxes to be levied against utilization of agricultural land at its upcoming third session.

To create conditions for the ratification of the above-mentioned draft laws, the National Assembly Standing Committee has decided to solicit public opinion from 5 April to 5 May. The contents of those opinions have already been disseminated by the mass media. Suggestions on the above-mentioned draft laws should be mailed to the National Assembly Office, 35 Ngo Quyen Street, Hanoi. No postage is required.

Hanoi-Ho Chi Minh City Fiber-Optic Link Nears Completion

BK3103141593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 28 Mar 93

[Text] Cable-laying work for the 1,861-km Hanoi-Ho Chi Minh City fiber-optic communications line along National Route 1 has basically been completed. The remaining 20-km portion in the Quang Tri area will be completed by late March if there are favorable conditions created by the road management sector.

In order to complete this project well and on schedule, various units of the post and telegraph sector and other sectors have layed this communications line portion by portion in all the three areas [Northern, Central, and Southern Vietnam]. Workers have overcome numerous weather-related difficulties in clearing leftover bombs and mines in order to ensure safe construction activities.

In the portion where the cable has already been laid, various units are installing communications terminals and signals-amplifying stations. This is in an effort to put the fiber-optic communications line into operation by the end of the second quarter of this year.

Hanoi-Danang Microwave Link Inaugurated

BK0504132093 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] The Post and Telegraph General Department organized a ceremony this morning [3 April] in Hanoi and Danang respectively to inaugurate and put into operation a wide-band 140-megabit microwave communication link between Hanoi and Danang. The system is capable of providing high speed transmission through 1,920 channels. The link comprises 20 stations along National Highway 1 and covers 10 provinces and cities between Hanoi and Danang. The facility was designed according to international standards to transmit telephone signals and radio and color television programs. The project was completed with the participation of many units inside and outside the posts and telegraph sector and the Ministry of National Defense, as well as with the technical assistance of the FRG's Siemens company. After nearly three months of test runs, the communications link has achieved high-quality transmission.

'High Quality' Telecommunications Projects Noted

BK0604065893 Hanoi VNA in English 0612 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 6—The Hanoi-Dang microwave telecommunications line was officially put into commission on April 3 after nearly 3 month's trial operation. The 140 mbit/s line was extended mainly along Highway 1 over 20 stations in 10 cities and towns. It was built up to the international standard with Germany's Siemens technical assistance and Siemens equipment supply. The line will help transmit high quality radio broadcasting and colour TV signals to radio and TV stations in the provinces from Hanoi to Danang in central Vietnam.

The Post and Communications Service in the central highland province of Gia Lai has put into operation a starex: ims 2000-number electronic telephone exhange imported from South Korea. Despite many difficulties, the Import-Export Company of Thai Binh Province is actively expanding its markets and stepping up its exports. In the first quarter of this year, the company exported 10,000 tonnes of rice and 1,500 sqm of woolen carpet, achieving an export value of 2,970,000 US dollars.

Gia Rai Province Offers Joint Venture Projects

BK0404070293 Hanoi VNA in English 0528 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 4—With its great potentials in industrial crops and forestry, the central highland province of Gia Rai has issued a list of economic projects to be offered for joint venture or cooperation with economic units in the country and foreign investors.

First is the project to grow sandal trees on 3,000-5,000 hectares and built a sandal particle board processing factory with a capacity of 40,000 tonnes/year. Investment capital for one hectares of sandal is projected at USD 380 for planting and 4.5 million for the factory.

Second is a project to expand tea growing and export with total investment capital of USD 4.5 million. The province now has 1,387 hectares of tea which annually yield 2,000 tonnes of dry tea including 500 tonnes for export. Under the project, the volume of tea for export will rise to 1,500 tonnes year.

Third is a project to build a plywood factory with a capacity of 1,000,000 sq.m/year at the total cost of USD 2 million while the province can supply materials to a 10,000-55,000 cubic metres annually.

The last is the construction of a tapioca factory with a capacity of 20,000 tonnes/year. The project is capitalised at 1.6 million US dollars.

Foreign Companies To Join Trade Fair

BK0504061593 Hanoi VNA in English 0600 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 5—More than 200 companies from 20 foreign countries and 100 Vietnamese businesses and enterprise are expected to participate in the 1993 International Trade Fair to be held here from April 6-10.

The fair is jointly organized by the Ministry of Commerce and the Hong Kong-based exhibition service company of Adsale.

On display will be construction equipment and machines, buses and specialized vehicles, food processing and packaging machines, and import-export and consumer goods. The fair will also provide introduction of services for trade, investment advertisement and tourism.

Officials Permit Shares Purchases by Foreigners

BK0404065093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0619 GMT 4 Apr 93

[By Andrew Sherry]

[Text] Hanoi, April 4 (AFP)—Hanoi has agreed in principle to let foreigners buy shares in Vietnamese state-owned companies, according to a government directive aimed at jump-starting the paralyzed privatization process. The State Bank has also decided to set up a stock exchange in Ho Chi Minh City before the end of the year, as a pilot project for the establishment of a national stock market, the weekly VIETNAM INVESTMENT REVIEW (VIR) reported. Both steps are designed to aid the conversion of a number of government-owned enterprises into joint-stock companies, an experimental plan that has yielded virtually no results since it was launched nine months ago.

In the directive, dated March 4 and released last week by the Finance Ministry, the prime minister's office acknowledges that the plan has fallen behind schedule and sets out a number of guidelines to move it ahead. One of those steps is to "authorize the sale of shares to foreign organizations and individuals on an experimental basis."

Concerned ministries and administrations must first work out concrete guidelines for such sales, however, and "carefully examine each case and report it to the prime minister." The directive also instructed state enterprises to encourage share ownership by workers, and stressed that "strategic" industries contributing to national security or infrastructure would remain in government hands. Earlier directives have indicated that majority share ownership by foreigners would be discouraged.

Ideological resistance and a lack of technical competence have plagued Vietnam's privatization plan ever since it was approved in principle by the communist leadership in 1991. Dubbing the process "equitization" to make it sound less capitalist, the government decided in June 1992 to go ahead with the experimental conversion of seven state or municipal enterprises into joint-stock companies.

Nine months later, none of the companies has been "equitized," with economists reporting that evaluation of assets has been the biggest problem in a country without standardized or transparent accounting techniques. Another major problem is finding buyers, since most Vietnamese prefer to put their savings into tangibles such as gold, dollars or property.

Even opening the share market to foreign investors may not solve the problem, as many of Vietnam's government-owned companies can offer only ageing Soviet or Chinese equipment. Others, such as the ultra-modern Ho Chi Minh City garment maker Legamex—the poster-child of equitization—are reported by the Vietnamese press to carry heavy debt burdens.

The government directive reiterated that the land a company occupies cannot be counted among its assets, since all land in Vietnam is owned by the state. An estimated 12,000 enterprises in Vietnam belong to the state or local governments, with more than half of them—especially on the local level—unlikely to survive without direct or hidden subsidies, Vietnamese and western economists say.

A stated goal of the economic reform process launched by Vietnam in 1987 is to restructure the state sector, with unprofitable enterprises dissolved, merged or transformed into joint stock companies.

As part of that process, the State Bank held a seminar last month in Ho Chi Minh City on setting up a pilot stock exchange in the fourth quarter of the year, VIR reported. Talk of a stock exchange raised eyebrows among economists and foreign businessmen, however.

"They're day-dreaming," Nguyen Xuan Oanh, who was central bank governor in former South Vietnam and now advises the Hanoi government, told AFP last week in Ho Chi Minh City. "How can you have a stock exchange when the basic financial apparatus has not yet been set up, starting with a real banking system?" Oanh said.

EC Grants $130 Million for Returnees' Reintegration

BK0204144393 Hanoi VNA in English 1427 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 2—The total expenditure for the main phase of the European Community International Programme for the Reintegration of Vietnamese Returnees (ECIP) which started on June 1, 1992 and will last until the end of 1994, is estimated to be at 130 million US dollars.

This was reported at a press conference here this morning by the ECIP office in Hanoi. According to the programme's director, Mr. Jorgen Gammelgaard, by the end of February this year, the programme had transferred to Vietnamese banks 10,176,600 US dollars, of which 9,307,605 US dollars had been loaned out, helping to create 24,865 jobs for both returnees and non-returnees. By the end of March, the programme had also provided financial assisance to 71 job-training centres in 16 provinces and cities which had high returnee population. This activity has helped the centres train 15,411 people, including 2,259 returnees, in 54 different occupations. In addition, the ECIP has invested in various small-sized projects such as roads, irrigation works, schools and infirmaries.

Official Refutes Charges of Religous Persecution

BK0404015293 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Apr 93 p A3

[Text] A top Vietnamese official has rebutted an exiled Buddhist monk's allegations of freedom of worship being restricted by Hanoi, describing the remarks as slanderous.

Ton Nu Thi Ninh, director of international organizations for Vietnam's Foreign Ministry, said her government has consistently pursued a policy of broadening the nation's unity by bringing together citizens from all walks of life, including religious creeds and sects.

This applies to all Vietnamese regardless of their past activities or where they live—at home or abroad—since the start of Doi Moi, the country's policy of social and economic reform and openness, she said.

Thi Ninh was responding to charges made two days ago by Thich Quang Ba of the Sakyamuni Buddhist Centre in Canberra, Australia.

He was attempting to bring the plight of his followers in Vietnam to the attention of the Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting on Human Rights, which concluded in Bangkok on Friday.

Quang Ba alleged that the state does not allow religions to resume normal activities in accordance with traditional beliefs. The Vietnamese clergy living in exile in Australia also accused the Buddhist Church of Vietnam of being a puppet of the communist regime.

But Thi Ninh, speaking on behalf of the Vietnamese delegation to the meeting, said freedom of worship is protected by the amended Constitution of 1992.

Thi Ninh cited the Constitution's clauses dealing with the right of the Vietnamese people to choose whether or not they embrace any religion. Furthermore, Decree 69 of the Council of Ministers of March 1991 contains clauses which allow the freedom to have places of worship, print religious texts or import religious articles and books, she said.

The decree also permits seminaries to be established to provide religious training, she said.

She said the government has engaged in dialogue with the Vatican and has exchanged visits of delegations.

Last week, the government hosted an Asian Buddhist conference with the participation of monks from 10 Buddhist communities in Asia.

About 85 per cent of Vietnam's 72 million people are Buddhists, while the rest are members of the Catholic Church, established in Vietnam during the time of French rule, other Christian denominations and folk religions.

Thi Ninh said most of Quang Ba's assertions appeared to be aimed at creating divisiveness within the Buddhist community in Vietnam.

"Citizens are free to attend ceremonies at temples, churches and mosques," she said.

"This person (Quang Ba) has been away from Vietnam for so long and does not know what has happened."

She also said that representatives of Asia Watch, a New York-based human rights watchdog, were recently allowed to visit churches, mosques and other places of worship in Vietnam.

Vietnam, along with 50 other Asian nations, unanimously adopted on Friday the Bangkok Draft Declaration on Human Rights, which contains a clause emphasizing a guarantee by Asian governments of the rights of vulnerable groups, including religious minorities.

Finance Ministry Receives Aid From ROK

BK3003150593 Hanoi VNA in English 1448 GMT 30 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 30—The Ministry of Finance received here today ten cars, eight computers and six photocopy machines valued at about 150,000 USD as aid from the Republic of Korea (ROK) to Vietnam in 1993.

The aid goods will be distributed to some specialized associations and mass organizations which have made substantial contributions to socio-econmic activities in Vietnam.

Present at the receiving ceremony held here this afternoon were Vice Minister of Finance Pham Van Trong and ROK Ambassador to Vietnam Pak No-su.

Prime Minister Receives South Korean Banker

BK0504152093 Hanoi VNA in English 1511 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 5—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet received here today the visiting chairman of the Shinhan Bank of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Heui Keonplee [name as received], who paid him a courtesy call.

The South Korean banker expressed his wishes to cooperate and share experience with Vietnamese banks in order to better facilitate Korean busineses' investment in Vietnam.

Shinhin is the only private bank in the ROK that has been assessed as efficient by the World Bank.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet welcomed and expressed his support for the Shinhan to develop cooperation with Vietnamese banks. He said that such a cooperation is signidicant and suitable to the new development in Vietnam-R.O.K. relations.

Ministry Holds News Conference on Tax Revenue

BK0104050593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 29 Mar 93

[Text] The Ministry of Finance held a news conference on the afternoon of 29 March to make public the implementation of the state budget for the first quarter of 1993 and the application of the share-holding system in state-run business establishments. The ministry also evaluated the implementation of tax laws and regulations, and ways for amending and supplementing tax laws and regulations.

In the first quarter of this year, the total revenue of the national budget reached 18.3 percent of the planned annual target, which is approximately 50 percent higher than the same period last year. The total amount of expenditure of the quarter amounted to 18.1 percent of the annual target set by the National Assembly. Revenues of various types—such as those collected as tax and fees from the state-run sector, taxes levied on small-industry, handicraft, commercial, and service businesses, and imports and exports—represented an increase between 68 percent or double that of the same period last year, thus helping ensure potential budget spending.

The state budget expenditure for investment in capital construction projects, for repayment of foreign debts, and for education, training, public health, family planning, and social security activities increased from 40 percent to more than double that of the first quarter of 1992. Expenditure for investment in capital construction alone attained 20 percent of the annual plan, presenting nearly a three-fold increase over that of the first quarter last year.

Illegal Local Tax Checkpoints Ordered Removed

BK0104121393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] The prime minister recently sent the following message to the people's committees of various provinces and cities under the central authority, the Central Steering Committee for Market Management, and the Ministries of Finance and the Interior:

Since the end of 1992, many localities have set up fixed road checkpoints or mobile teams along various roads to control and collect tax from merchandise transported by various means, and in many cases this has been done in such a way that these localities have violated Decision No. 80, dated 11 March 1987, of the chairman of the Council of Ministers—the prime minister. This has caused obstacles to the flow of legal transport means and merchandise and this is also a serious negative practice that has caused indignation among the people.

The people's committees of those provinces and cities under the central authority are therefore requested to order the immediate removal of those merchandise checkpoints and tax collection stations which have been illegally set up in various forms along many communications lines in their localities. Only those joint checkpoints set up along roads leading to border gates in accordance with Directive Nos. 84 and 156 as requested by relevant provincial people's committees and approved by the Central Steering Committee for Market Management will be allowed to exist. However, they must operate according to the law and must not cause any congestion to the flow of goods or cause any inconveniences at variance with the government's stipulations.

Merchandise control and tax collection efforts against the smuggling of contraband, illegal dealings, and tax evasion must be carried out right at their very source—namely, the places where this merchandise is manufactured or at their assembly and delivery points. Under no circumstances will any localities be allowed to use transport facilities along roads without permission for merchandise control purposes. These transport facilities include those used at temporary stopover points while waiting to cross a bridge or board a ferry boat or to have a repair service done.

Provincial and city traffic police are the only forces charged with conducting patrols and control to ensure traffic order along national highways as stipulated by the Ministry of Interior. Such control activities must be carried out promptly without causing traffic congestion and impeding the flow of legal merchandise.

The Ministry of Interior, as a primary organ, must join with the Ministry of Finance, and the Central Steering Committee for Market Control must supervise enforcement of this directive. The chairmen of relevant provincial and city committees must take full responsibility for the continued existence of illegally-established merchandise control and tax collection stations in areas under their control.

Article Questions State Purchases of Toyotas

BK0504090893 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 1 Apr 93

[From the Press Review program]

[Text] SAIGON GIAI PHONG today carries an article by Le Minh pointing out that during the past five months from late 1992 to the end of March 1993, over 100 1991-92 model Toyota Corona and Toyota Corolla cars were sold to people and state agencies in Ho Chi Minh City at $31,000-39,000 each. This totals at least $3.1 million or the equivalent of 32.689 billion dong, based on the exchange rate used by the Ho Chi Minh City Foreign Trade Bank on 31 March.

Among the owners of these Toyota cars, 60 percent are administrative agencies. This means that 60 percent of the more than 32 billion dong mentioned above were withdrawn from the state budget.

The author queried whether the agencies concerned really need these cars and whether state funds were properly used in this case.

Cooperation Agreement With PRC on Social Sciences

BK0204072593 Hanoi VNA in English 0711 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 2—An agreement on cooperation and scientific exchanges for the 1993-96 period was signed here yesterday between the National Center for Social Sciences of Vietnam (NCSS) and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (ASS). The signatories were Nguyen Duy Quy, head of the NCSS and Prof. Hu Sheng, vice-chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and head of the academy, who visited Vietnam from March 29 to April 1.

Under this agreement, the two institutes will exchange information, documents and publications and visits for survey, reseach and seminars, cooperate in scientific projects of mutual concern and encourage their sub-institute organization to engage in direct cooperation in the fields of social sciences.

Journal Urges Abolition of Public Land Trading

BK3103144993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 30 Mar 93

[From the Daily Press Review program]

[Text] NHAN DAN today carries an article by Tran Quoc Khai on the conflicts in public land trading in Ho Chi Minh City. The article says: Land trading in Ho Chi Minh City is very intense at present. Many persons and organizations have earned billions of dong in trading public land. Although there is no specific place for land trading, ownerships of many pieces of public land have been transferred in the city, thus causing land prices to spiral upwards in many localities.

The article cites as an example the dealings of the privately run Minh Dung Corporation in the buying and selling of land. This corporation encourages people to sell their land, which has allotted to them by the state. It offers to pay all compensation fees for sellers plus 1 billion dong as a gift for each hectare of land sold to the corporation. To prevent this practice, the article suggests that efforts must be made to prohibit the trading of public land in all forms. Any agency and unit with spare land should return them to the state. In such cases, these agencies and units are entitled to receive compensation from the state for their structure on that piece of land. Agencies that have already sold their land must return to the state all money derived from this illegal trade.

The article stresses: To ensure social order and discipline, measures must be taken to formulate sufficient laws that will meet practical conditions. Land is property and labor a means of production and they must be properly managed. The transfer of the right to use land is an unacceptable practice. The promulgation of the law on land in the near future and the serious implementation of this law will effectively serve our objectives of making the people prosperous, the nation powerful, and society advanced, the article concludes.

Maritime Department Issues Communique on Piracy

BK3103143393 Hanoi VNA in English 1352 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 31—The Vietnam Maritime Transportation Department has issued an urgent communique on the latest acts of sea piracy against Vietnamese ships travelling on the South China Sea. The communique says: Three Vietnamese freighters 'Nha Trang 08', 'Knanh Hoi 04' and 'Phu Quoc' were recently attacked and abducted by a group of armed persons while on a regular trip from Hong Kong to Vietnam. Latest reports said that the 'Khanh Hoi 04' and 'Phu Quoc' had been released after a period of illegal detention. The above-said acts of piracy took place on March 23 and 27, 1993 in the South China Sea in the intermediate waters between China and Hong Kong.

The Vietnam Maritime Transportation Department urges competent authorities of maritime countries to [words indistinct] prompt and appropriate measures to suppress the pirates and restore security of navigatuon in the region and enforce respect for international maritime laws and for the right to 'harmless passage' of Vietnamese ships as prescribed by the 1982 United Nations' Law on the Sea (UNLOS). It also urgently requests that the competent authorities of countries in the region take necessary actions to help in the search for and protection of the lives and property of the crew on board the still missing freighter.

Khamtai Siphandon Speaks at 31 Mar Hanoi Banquet

BK0504145393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 1 Apr 93

["Text" of speech by Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of Lao People's Revolutionary Party and prime minister of Lao People's Democratic Republic, at banquet honoring Lao delegation, in Hanoi on 31 March—recorded; Khamtai speaks in Lao fading into Vietnamese translation]

[Text] Dear esteemed Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi, esteemed President Le Duc Anh, esteemed Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, esteemed other leading comrades of the Vietnamese party and state, and comrades and friends,

I am very happy to visit Vietnam, a brotherly country which is very beloved to me. I would like to bring to the brotherly Vietnamese party, state, and people our tokens of traditional friendship and unity as well as the affection of the Lao party, state, and people.

I would like to express our honest appreciation for the friendly hospitality of the leading Vietnamese party and state comrades since the first minute we arrived in your country. At the same time, I would like to thank you for the profound words that Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi reserved for the Lao party, state, and people as well as for myself.

Dear comrades and friends,

On this SRV visit, our delegation is very happy and proud at the important achievements that the entire Vietnamese party, army, and people have scored, especially its achievements with historic meaning in 1992. Those achievements have created a new face for the socioeconomic situation and solved many strategic problems such as food, oil and natural gas, electricity, capital accumulation, and so forth. The people's lives have been increasingly improved, opening new favorable potential and opportunities for more development in Vietnam.

Those achievements prove that the line set forth by the Seventh National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] is correct and suitable to the actual national conditions and the international situation in the new stage. At the same time, the achievements also prove the unity of thousands of people as one entire Vietnamese people under the party leadership to develop the heroic tradition, spirit of mastery, and self-reliance to overcome all difficulties left over from the war and old management structure created by complicated changes in the international situation and the encirclement and embargo imposed from the outside. Those glorious achievements vividly manifest the CPV's ability to renovate itself to become more efficient, creating more trust and building a greater bond between the people and the party.

We believe that with experience drawn from reality and with a determined and unflagging revolutionary spirit, the Vietnamese people, under the wise leadership of the CPV headed by esteemed Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi, will score more greater victories and achievements in the path leading to your chosen targets, making Vietnam rich and strong and contributing its important share to the common cause of other nations for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress.

Dear comrades and friends: The peoples of our two countries have enjoyed time-honored good relations. Since the birth of the Communist Party of Indochina formed by great President Ho Chi Minh and through challenges in the war coalition against common enemies in the last dozens of years for independence and freedom of each of our countries, our parties and peoples have protected and developed their friendly relations into a great friendship and special unity that have existed and strongly developed.

There is no measure that can evaluate all the victories and benefits that our peoples have achieved in our common revolutionary struggle. But we clearly understand that every victory and benefit that we have achieved belong to the close, unchanged, and clear sentiments; the great sacrifice; and the wholehearted assistance of the brotherly peoples of Laos and Vietnam.

I am satisfied at the results of the talks between our two delegations during this visit. The two sides confirmed our determination to strengthen the friendly relations, special unity, and comprehensive cooperation between the two parties, states, and peoples with new quality for the fundamental and long-term benefit of each country. At the same time, the two sides will continue to broaden their friendly relations and equal and mutual beneficial cooperation with other countries in the region and the world.

On this occasion, on behalf of the party, state, and multiethnic people of Laos, I would like to express profound appreciation to the brotherly Vietnamese party, state, and people for their great and precious support and assistance to the Lao revolution.

In this friendly and momentous atmosphere, I would like to invite you to raise a toast for new and greater achievements for the brotherly Vietnamese people in their comprehensive renovation; that the great Laos-Vietnam friendship, special unity, and comprehensive cooperation be long lasting; and for the good health of Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi, President Le Duc Anh, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, other leading comrades of the Vietnamese party and state, and all comrades and friends. Thank you. [applause]

Australia

Evans Skeptical About U.S. Suggestion on Bosnia Embargo

BK0604082293 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Australia's foreign minister, Gareth Evans, has expressed reservations about an American suggestion that the United Nations consider lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina. However, he told a news conference in New York, Australia supported the tightening of sanctions against Serbia.

[Begin Evans recording] Australia would certainly support the imposition of a further and even tougher round of sanctions by the Security Council, which I think is the next step to take. While being deeply uneasy about any suggestion on lifting the arms embargo against the Muslims, it is certainly something on which I think our international community needs to keep an open mind in the period ahead. [end recording]

Defense Chief Comments on Human Rights, Asia Ties

BK0604090293 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Australia's defense chief has warned that Australia's relations with Asia should not be dominated by human rights issues. General Peter Gration, who retires next week after six years as defense chief, was speaking in Canberra to the Australian Institute of International Affairs. General Gration said his most satisfying achievement as defense chief had been rebuilding military relations with Indonesia.

Government Reassures 'Jittery' Market Over Deficit

BK0404112893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0722 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] Canberra, April 4 (AFP)—The Australian government continued to counter concerns of a "jittery" market over its growing budget deficit Sunday, with finance minister Ralph Willis reaffirming moves to reduce the deficit over the next few years.

Willis said financial markets had no cause for concern about the deficit as the government's attempts to stimulate the economy were only short-term measures.

During the next few years, action would be taken to reduce spending and this, combined with the benefits of economic recovery, would enable the government to honour its commitment to cut the budget deficit, he said.

"The government's never moved away from the commitment it gave during the (election) campaign that we would get the budget deficit down to one per cent of gross domestic product by '96-97," Willis told Australian television Sunday. "That remains the commitment, it's always remained the commitment and there's really been, I think, a lot of jitteriness for no reason."

The focus on the deficit intensified last week when Reserve Bank governor Bernie Fraser urged the government to immediately start work on a deficit reduction plan. And international ratings agency Standard and Poor's suggested Australia's credit rating was at risk in light of the growing budget deficit.

The comments followed release of Australia's trade figures for February, showing a deficit on the current account of 797 million Australian dollars.

Treasurer John Dawkins was moved to make a speech on Friday promising government efforts to reduce the budget deficit, which he said should peak at this year's forecast of 15.9 billion Australian dollars.

Dawkins detailed plans for a national savings strategy to find the funds for new investment without further blowouts in foreign debt. He said the deficit could not be eliminated next financial year because to do so would "precipitate and would jeopardise the recovery".

Dawkins said the August budget would contain specific measures going beyond the 1993/94 financial year to keep the pre-election promise of a deficit worth one per cent of gross domestic product, or four to five billion Australian dollars (2.78 to 3.47 billion dollars U.S.), by 1996/97.

Willis would not be drawn Sunday on what those measures might include, saying the government would consider its options. But he appeared to rule out the idea of selling all or part of the Australian and Overseas Telecommunications Corporation (AOTC), formerly Telecom and OTC Australia, to raise funds.

Asked how much of AOTC the government would be prepared to sell, Willis said: "That's been absolutely ruled out in the campaign and I have no expectation of any change to that at all."

Singapore Bank Wins License After Liberalization

BK0204102193 Singapore BUSINESS TIMES in English 2 Apr 93 p 12

[Text] SINGAPORE—Overseas Union Bank [OUB] has received approval from Australian regulators to establish a foreign bank branch in the country.

It becomes the first foreign financial institution to have received approval since Australia liberalised its rules governing foreign banks in February last year.

Australian Treasurer John Hawkins said in a statement issued in Canberra yesterday that OUB had been granted approval under a new policy "which is intended to allow foreign banks to operate more cost effectively in Australia and thereby provide more competitive banking services to Australians".

OUB has been in Australia since 1984, when it opened its representative office. Two years later, the Singapore bank expanded its presence by opening a wholly-owned merchant banking subsidiary, OUB Australia Ltd.

The bank said in a statement yesterday that operating as a branch in Australia will facilitate OUB's penetration of the wholesale market in that country.

"The bank will enhance its resources to facilitate Australian investments into Asia," the bank said.

It will also finance trade between Australia and the rest of the Asia-Pacific region.

The bank emphasised that its Australian operations formed an important link in OUB's international strategy "to focus its resources in the Asia Pacific region".

The bank has taken steps to open offices in Bangkok, Shenzhen, Shanghai and Ho Chi Minh city. But it plans to close its Canadian subsidiary.